



Bhaktapur

A guide book





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Complimentary Copy

Nepal Tourism Board



November 21, 2007

Message from Chief Executive Officer



It gives me great pleasure to know about the publication of Bhaktapur Guide Book by Bhaktapur Tourism Development Committee focusing on the need of tourists who wish to know more about Bhaktapur- both culturally and historically. Undoubtedly, Bhaktapur is one of the well managed World Heritage Sites of Nepal; and it has become an exemplary model for public private partnership conservation effort. It's not necessary for me to say more about Bhaktapur because Bhaktapur itself is a unique blend of its glorious past, orderly present and bright future. Unlike many other heritage sites of the world, Bhaktapur is a living heritage site where people live inside the heritage site without distorting its original shape.

Bhaktapur Guide Book is a step forward to introduce Nepal's heritage site from local perspective. It has now become imperative for us to show the visitors what we have rather than what they want. I am sure this book will provide ample vista of Bhaktapur both as a heritage site and cultural milieu.

I wish all the best for its future endeavour.

Prachanda Man Shrestha
Chief Executive Officer



Government of Nepal
Ministry of Local Development
Office of District Development Committee

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Ref. No. /064/65

Date:-4th Dec. 2007

MESSAGE



I am much delighted to know that Bhaktapur Tourism Development Committee (BTDC) is coming up with the publication of "Bhaktapur-A Guide Book" in order to disseminate information to the tourists visiting Bhaktapur. I am really optimistic that the effort will have radical effect in promoting Bhaktapur and attracting more tourists. At the same time, it will enable the tourists to explore the cultural riches of the city with more significance.

Besides the wonderful medieval city, Bhaktapur has lots to offer to the tourists such as natural scenery and ecological diversity etc. The tourism of Bhaktapur is yet to be exploited for the benefit of the local community and tourists alike.

I believe this publication will help in exploring and identifying avenues of sustainable tourism in Bhaktapur.

Congratulation to BTDC !

Raj Kumar Shrestha
Local Development Officer
Bhaktapur District Dev. Committee



बिजय नगरपालिका भक्तपुर नगरपालिका

BHAKTAPUR MUNICIPALITY

(DURBAR SQUARE, BHAKTAPUR)

Bhaktapur
1991



पत्र संख्या :- २१२६
चलानी नं. :- ३०६३

मिति :- May १७, २००७

It gives me a great pleasure to note that Bhaktapur Tourism Development Committee is to publish BHAKTAPUR-GUIDE Book. Bhaktapur, best known as "City of Culture", the "Living Heritage", and "Culture Gem" of Nepal, is also famous for indigenous lifestyle and city of colourful festivals of the native Newar Community. Moreover, it has long history of original Nepalese craftsmanship. Listed by the UNESCO as the World Heritage Site, Bhaktapur has innumerable monuments constructed particularly during Malla era. Over a hundred thousand tourists visit this city annually.



I hope the publication of the guide book would contribute a lot in disseminating valuable information to those interested in visiting Bhaktapur in particular, and development of tourism sector of Nepal, in general.

I thank from the bottom of my heart, and appreciate the noble efforts being made by Bhaktapur Tourism Development Committee and wish every success, in its endeavours.

Thanks,

Indra P. Karki
2064. 2. 3

.....
Indra Prasad Karki
Executive Officer



मध्यपुर थिमी नगरपालिका
नभ्रमय विव मययययययय
MADHYAPUR THIMI MUNICIPALITY

Ref. No. 1317

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Re: Foreword



It is a great pleasure for me that Bhaktapur Tourism Development Committee is going to Publish " BHAK-TAPUR- Guide Book". I hope the guide book will be a key book to the historical city Bhaktapur and will play a vital role in tourism development of Nepal.

I heartily appreciate your efforts and initiation in the field of Tourism.

Thank you

.....
Govinda Singh Bhandari
Executive Officer
Madhyapur Thimi Municipality

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MUKUNDA MANDHAR

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BHAKTAPUR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (BCCI)

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FORWARD

It gives me pleasure to know that Bhaktapur Tourism Development Committee (BTDC), an active organisation of the Bhaktapur District is going to publish "BHAKTAPUR GUIDE BOOK".



I am fully confident that, up coming this Guide Book will be very useful for both foreign & internal tourists. Also I hope definitely, it will be helpful for researchers and others as well. I take this opportunity to wish all success in the endeavours of Bhaktapur Tourism Development Committee (BTDC).

April 8, 2007



Yubak Rajbhandari
President



Nagarkot Naldum Tourism Development Committee नगरकोट नाल्दुम पर्यटन विकास समिति

Message

It's my pleasure to know that Bhaktapur Tourism Development Committee is publishing "Bhaktapur - A Guide Book" with a view to disseminate information to the visitors in Bhaktapur. Bhaktapur with maximum tourism potentials could attract more number of visitors - both internal and international.



Bhaktapur - the city of devotees is one of the cultural tourist destinations for its elegant art, cultural heritages, indigenous lifestyle and natural sites. The need of the proper information to the visitors visiting Bhaktapur will be more or less be fulfilled after the publication this guide book. Nagarkot has been a paradise for the nature lovers, basically for the sunrise, sunset and mountain views. I hope the same publication will support to promote Nagarkot as well.

Bhaktapur Tourism Development Committee (BTDC) is coming up with the publication of a new exclusive souvenir. In this perspective, BTDC deserves appreciations and thanks for highlighting the tourism potentials in Bhaktapur. Such efforts will certainly prop up in promoting Bhaktapur and attracting more tourists. I believe this publication will contribute for sustainable tourism development in Bhaktapur.

RAM SHANKAR

.....
Ram Shankar Dhoju
President

BHAKTAPUR TOURISM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE



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Message

This organisation was established in 1997 with an aim to promote the culture, hand-craft and tourism of Bhaktapur. The organisation has tried to save tourists from facing difficulties, and provide them with quality service. Nepal is full of natural beauty and Bhaktapur is no exception. One can enjoy snow capped mountains towards the north of Bhaktapur and on the south and the east, it is surrounded by green hills. Bhaktapur has a great potential for tourism. The city, which is built on the structure of "Astamatrika Shree Yantra", is famous as city of God and Goddess. Bhaktapur is adorned by many temples, including the tallest temple of the world, built in Pagoda style. One should not forget King Bhupatindra Malla for making such world famous heritage site. Many tourists travel to Bhaktapur to observe the architectural beauty of the city. This has led to boom in tourism in Bhaktapur, which is helping people earn their livelihood. For this reason, we must thank King Bhupatindra Malla.

We have published Bhaktapur Guide Book in order to help those who come to visit the city. We have tried to incorporate more information in the latest edition. At the end, as the President of Bhaktapur Tourism Development Committee, I would like to thank all who have helped to publish the guide book including DED, Ram Sundar, Basanti, Rajan, Basudev and friends at the printing press. I expect such cooperation in the days to come.



Nawal Kishor Rajbhandari
President



"Bhaktapur : The Tantric City"

It is generally acknowledged that the main objective of Tantra is to achieve salvation. It implies that with the help of Tantra, one can form a wonderful mindset for the attainment of freedom from the entire stages of physical existence. Indeed, when you unleash yourself from the hullabaloo of the physical world and happen to enter this township of Bhaktapur, you will start to feel saintly and simple liveliness foregrounding the scene. It is not any political pressure, but the power of faith that had retained Bhaktapur as the centre of Nepal until the 17th century. Though displaced politically in terms of its centrality, Bhaktapur has been established as the capital of culture, traditions, and tantrik system of reverence to God.

The history records that in this city, kings and common people used to practice tantrik and spiritual exercises without any discrimination in hierarchy, class and gender. Several Malla kings used to play *Pasa*, a typical traditional gamble, with Taleju, the principal Goddess of Bhaktapur. Following the end of Licchavi Dynasty in the 9th century, the root of tantric custom spread out profusely in the environs of feast and festivals, sports, artistries, architecture and everyday activities. Bhaktapur literally known as the city of devotees, thus kept itself up for long. The history also records that in the 12th century, King Ananda Dev had this city of 12000 houses built, giving it a shape of lord Vishnu's *Sankha* (mollusk-shell). There are still a lot of evidences, which reflect the reality of the foregoing.

In 1349 AD, Shamsuddin Ilyas, a Muslim king of the Turkish Dynasty, attacked Bhaktapur, which resulted in great damage to the city. It has been found that taking into account the likelihood of foreign attack and even internal rivalry, and also to protect the city from natural disasters, the city under-

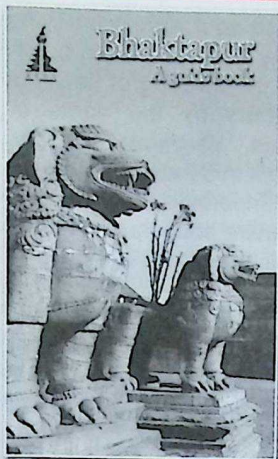


went a round of restructuring to also spur enhanced living mechanism. For example, *Yantrakaar Khwapa De* (an apparatus or the body-frame suggesting the dwelling of powerful deities) depicts eight great mothers by the name of *Brahmayani*, *Maheshwori*, *Koumari*, *Vaishnawi*, *Varahi*, *Indrayani*, *Mahakali* and *Mahalakshmi* in 8 respective power points distributed peripherally, with *Tripurasundari* placed in the middle of the body frame. The entire body frame is used for the purpose of tantra-based Yogic practice.

It is said that in order to ensure healthy, secured and disease-free populace, proven tantrik practitioners sought treatment of various bodily diseases by placing a deity into the core of a healthy human being, who as a representative of God, would provide treatment for the suffering ones. Even to this date, people go to their *dya: wathay*, a place where god comes, then undergo witchery for the treatment, besides their pledge for freedom from their past faults and safeguard from lawsuits. In the reign of King Suwarna Malla, *Nawadurga Nach* (nine classic dances of nine female deities emanated from the single Goddess of Power) was introduced with the objective of protecting the people of Bhaktapur from any calamity. The locales still worship the *Nawadurga* as their living Goddess, and believe that wherever she steps on, the place is blessed to benefit safety, and fertility of land. In the present time in all historical changes, the *Nawadurga* is being revered. King Tribhuvan, in the aftermath of the restoration of democracy in the country in 2007 BS, and King Mahendra, just before he practised the autocratic system, had worshiped the Goddess to bless them for their success.

Freed from the shackles of time and well saved from natural adversities, this city of Bhaktapur still remains luminous and noble. Though, at present we are all amid hullabaloo, we must not step behind. Let us make all the shrines and temples of this ancient city sustain and lively as far as possible.

-Ram Sundar Bhele



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►► How to get to Bhaktapur

Situated at an altitude of 1401 masl, Bhaktapur is a unique old town, divided into 24 traditional localities covering an area of 5 sq.km. Founded by King Ananda Dev in 889 A.D., Bhaktapur is said to have been built in the shape of conch, the sacred symbol of Lord Vishnu. Literally, Bhaktapur means the city of devotees.

► From the airport

Travelers wishing to come to Bhaktapur directly from the Tribhuvan International Airport are recommended to take the prepaid taxis at the airport exit gate. Normally, it should not take more than 30 minutes to get to Bhaktapur and it should not cost more than Nepalese Rupees 350-400.

► From Kathmandu

For comfortable travelling, a meter taxi would be the best means to get to Bhaktapur. In this case, it takes around 40-45 minutes to get to Bhaktapur and it will not cost more than Nepalese Rupees 400.

For tourists, travelling by local buses could prove to be interesting. Express mini buses leave from the Mini Bus Park in Baghbajar. Buses departing in every 10 minutes charge Rs. 15 per passenger for a one- way trip.

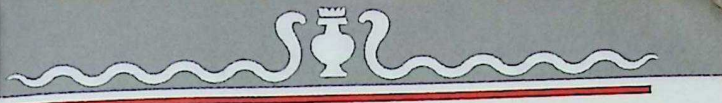
One can also rent a motorbike or a mountain bike to get to Bhaktapur. On a motorbike it is less than half an hour ride and on mountain bike it will not take more than 50 minutes. The advantage of hiring a bike is the extended rides to other interesting driveways and trails beyond Bhaktapur city.

► From Patan (Lalitpur)

In every 15 minutes mini buses leave for Bhaktapur from Patan. One can get these buses at the Lagankhel Bus Park and enjoy a one- way trip for Rs 15.



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► From Patan (Lalitpur)

In every 15 minutes mini buses leave for Bhaktapur from Patan. One can get these buses at the Lagankhel Bus Park and enjoy a one-way trip for Rs 15.

▶▶ Bhaktapur at a Glance

Area	: 138.46 sq .km (the smallest district of the country)
East West length	: 16 km.
North South length	: 2.2 km.
Latitude	: 27° 36' to 27° 44' north
Longitude	: 85° 21' to 85° 32' east
Temperature	: Maximum 32° C. Minimum -2° C.
Major Rivers	: Monohara, Hanumante, Mahadev, Ghatte Khola, Khasyangkhusung, Tabaya Khushi
Average Annual Rainfall	: 56mm

▶ Nearest district

East	Kavre Palanchowk District
West	Kathmandu & Lalitpur District
North	Kathmandu & Kavre Palanchowk District
South	Lalitpur District

▶ Political and Administrative Division

Development Region	: Central
Zone	: Bagmati
District Headquarter	: Bhaktapur
Parliamentary Constituency	: 2
VDC	: 16
Municipality	: 2

▶ Land Use Pattern (As of 2006)

Description	Area (Sq.Km)	Area (%)
Agricultural Land	96.57	80.1
Forest Land	12.46	10.32
Bushes	6.82	5.65
Settlement	2.67	2.21
Others	2.18	1.81

▶ Irrigation Facilities (As of 2006)

Total Agricultural land	3322 Hector
-------------------------	-------------

3 Kilometers

► **Population (As of 2006)**

Total Population	225461
Male	114798(50.92%)
Female	110633(49.08%)
Population Growth Rate	2.71%

► **Literacy Rate (As of 2006)**

Total Literacy Rate	59.15%
Male	69.20%
Female	49.08%

► **Population Distribution (As of 2006)**

Religion

1. Hindu	92.1%
2. Buddhist	7.4%
3. Others	0.4%

Caste

1. Newar	62.8%
2. Brahman	10.20%
3. Chettri	18.2%
4. Tamang	4.7%

Language

1. Newar	60.9%
2. Nepali	34.3%
3. Tamang	3.8%

► **Major Crops and Production (As of 2006)**

Paddy	25,850 metric ton per year
Corn	6300 "
Wheat	15025 "
Pulse (dal)	545 "
Millet	200 "

► **Major Fruits:**

Orange, Lemon, Guava, Pears, *Junar*, *Haluwabad*

► **Major Vegetables:**

Cauliflower, Peas, Beans, Cucumber, Pumpkin, Carrot, Ginger, Garlic, Cabbage, Tomato.

► **Major Animal Farming:**

Cow, Buffalo, Goat, Sheep, Pig, Poultry, Rabbit



► Road Facilities (As of 2006)

Black Topped:	82 km
Gravelled:	42.75 km
Earthened:	192.49 km

► Postal Service

District Post Office	1
Ilaka Post Office	8
Additional Post Office	13

► Telecommunication Facilities

Digital Telephone Lines: 8853 (digital), 15 (VHF/ Marts)
Existing Telephone Exchanges: 4 (Gathaghar, Bhaktapur Municipality, Nagarkot, Nankhel)

► Major Exported Products from Bhaktapur

S.N	Product	Site	Collected Area	Exported Value (Rs.000)
1.	Carpet	Jagati, Suryabinayak, Old Thimi, Gathaghar & Dhadhikot	Bhaktapur	98783
2.	Handicraft, Nepali paper	Bhaktapur, Thimi, Suryabinayak, Kamalbinayak	Bhaktapur	43769
3.	Pashmina	Bhaktapur Industrial , estate, Sallaghari Dhadhikot, Sirutar	Bhaktapur	91652
4.	Ready made Garment	Bhaktapur Industrial estate, Sallaghari, Thimi , sirutar	Bhaktapur	467137
5.	Plastic Bags	Sallaghari, Thimi	Bhaktapur Industrial estate	10343
6.	Pharmaceutical	Sallaghari	Thimi	45357
7.	Cotton socks	Sallaghari , Thimi	Sallaghari	910
8.	Sandle	Bhaktapur Industrial estate	Sallaghari	591
9.	Shoe	Sallaghari	Sallaghari	940



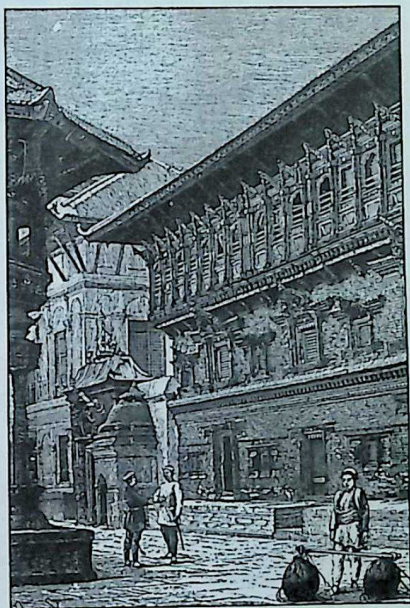
» **The Malla Rulers of the Independent Kingdom of Bhaktapur**

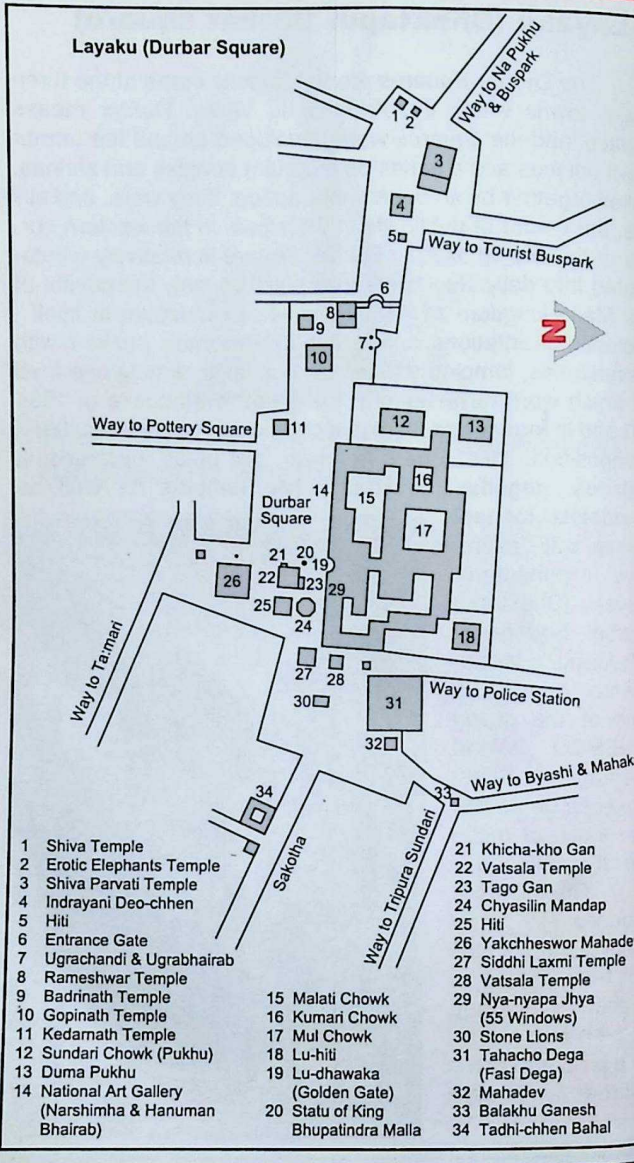
Name of the Malla Rulers	Time Period (A.D)
Yaksha Malla	1428 - 1482
Ratna Malla	1482 - 1504
Vir Malla	1504 - 1505
Bhuban Malla	1505 - 1519
Rana Malla	1519 - 1522
Bhimsen/ Jita Malla	1522 - 1524
Pran Malla/ Vira Malla	1524 - 1548
Vishwa Malla	1548 - 1561
Trailokya/ Tribhuvan	1561 - 1614
Jagat Jyoti Malla	1614 - 1637
Naresh Malla	1637 - 1644
Jagat Prakash Malla	1644 - 1673
Jitamitra Malla/ Ugra Malla	1673 - 1696
Bhupatindra Malla	1696 - 1722
Ranjit Malla	1722 - 1769

► Layaku (Bhaktapur Durbar square)

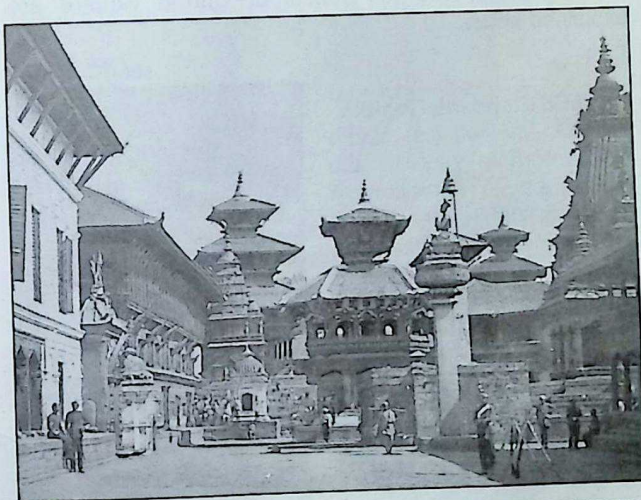
The Durbar Squares are the historic cores of the three major towns within the Kathmandu Valley. Durbar means 'palace' and the squares were developed around the former royal palaces and a series of important temples and shrines, linked together by an open public space. They were, and still are, the centre of public life in the cities. In the western corner of the city, Bhaktapur Durbar Square is relatively unintegrated into daily life. This spectacular square, the capital of the Malla kingdom till 1769, is an open museum in itself. Victorian illustrations show that it was once packed with monasteries, temples and artistic buildings, almost one third of which were devastated in the great earthquake of 1934 AD and is former odd blank space ruining the once masterful composition. This square however, still holds mesmerising palaces, pagodas, Shikhara style temples as well as Buddhists monasteries with exclusive architecture. *Layaku* (Bhaktapur Durbar Square) is Bhaktapur's monumental gem. It is one of the seven UNESCO World Heritage Sites. One can get to feel the touch of mediaeval excellence.

The Durbar Square of Bhaktapur is smaller than those of Patan and Kathmandu. Approaching Durbar Square





through the huge white gate, one can notice on the left, a pair of lion statues guarding supposedly one of the entrances to the royal complex. Between them lie two master pieces of stone sculptures, *Bhairab*, the fierce form of *Shiva* and *Durga* a fearsome manifestation of goddess *Parvati*, which dates back to 1701 A.D. It is believed that the unfortunate sculptor had his hands cut off afterwards, to prevent him from duplicating his masterpieces. In front of these statues of *Ugrabhairab* and *Ugrachandi* or when entering the Durbar Square from the main gate, there is a group of temples on the right (south), which represent the four highest Hindu pilgrimage sites; *Gopi Nath*, *Kedarnath*, *Rameshwar* and *Badrinath*. These temples are constructed by the Malla kings for those who could not afford visit to the original sites. Another pair of lion status and stone sculptures of *Hanuman* (worshiped for strength and devotion) and *Narsingha* (an incarnation of lord *Vishnu*) can be seen at the entrance of the National Art Gallery, which is situated on the middle north side of the square. The gallery is worth visiting for its exclusive collection of Buddhist Paubha paintings, palm leaf manuscripts as well as metal and stone crafts. The whole block on the north side



of the square is the main palace complex. It consisted of 99 different courtyards. Golden Gate, the main entrance to this palace complex is the master piece of metal carvings in Bhaktapur. Through this golden gate you may enter to discover the courtyard of the Taleju Temple, the royal bath and what used to be the residence of the Malla kings. Next to the Golden Gate is the most talked about 55 windows palace of King Bhupatindra Malla. This palace, which is recently renovated by the Department of Archaeology and the Bhaktapur Municipality, is one of the main parts of the palace complex. Right in front of the Golden Gate, one can see the impressive statue of King Bhupatindra Malla on a high stone column. The gold gilded statue in the position of worship is the centre of appraisal for every visitor. In front of the palace lies a large bell erected by King Ranjit Malla in 1337 A.D. Beside the Big Bell stands the Shikhara style *Durga Temple*, completely built out of stones in 1727 A.D. by Jaya Ranjit Malla. On the lower flank of this *Vatsala Temple* lies another small bell erected by King Bhupatindra Malla popularly known as the 'Khicha Kho Gan' which means dogs barking bell because dogs bark whine at its sound. Unfortunately, it is now broken. Some of the important parts of Bhaktapur Durbar Square are explained below:

► Erotic Elephants Temple

On the left just before the entrance way to the square is a *hiti* (water tank). A few steps before that, but on the southern side of the road, just 100m before the entrance way, is a tiny double roofed *Shiva - Parvati Temple* with some erotic carvings on its struts. One of these shows a pair of copulating elephants, in the missionary position. It's *Kisi* (elephant) *Kamasutra*.





► Ugrachandi and Ugrabhairab

Near the main gate at the west end, one can admire a pair of multiple-armed statues of the terrible god *Ugrabhairab* and his counterpart *Ugrachandi*, the fearsome manifestation of *Shiva's* consort *Parvati*. The statues date back to 1701 A.D. and it is said that the unfortunate sculptor had his hands cut off afterwards, to prevent him from duplicating his masterpieces. *Ugrachandi* have eighteen arms holding various weapons and she is in the position of casually killing a (buffalo) demon. *Bhairab* has twelve arms and both god and goddess are garlanded with necklaces of human heads.

► Char Dham

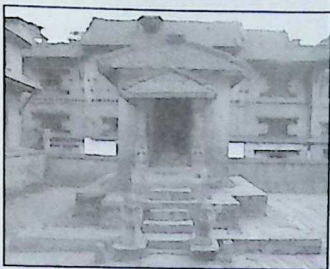
The four temples locally called *Char Dham* which means four holiest pilgrimages lies at the western end of Durbar Square. King Yaksha Malla built them in 1451 A.D. for those who could not travel abroad for health and financial reasons. The *Char Dham* is as follows:

► Rameshwor Temple

The first temple one notices on the right as he enters the gate is *Rameshwor Temple*, in front of *Gopi Nath*



Temple which is a *Gum Baja* style temple. It is an open shrine with four Pillars and it is dedicated to *Shiva*. The name *Rameshwar* comes from the fact that it was *Ram* as an incarnation of *Vishnu* who had the original temple of *Mahadev* built at *Rameshwar Temple* South India.



► **Badrinath Temple**

A small temple west of the *Gopi Nath Temple* is locally known as *Badrinath Narayan* which is dedicated to *Vishnu* and *Narayan*.

► **Gopi Nath Temple**

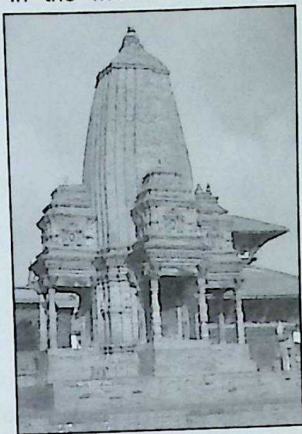
Two roofed pagoda style is the *Gopi Nath Temple* attached to *Rameshwar Temple* that houses three deities *Balaram*, *Subhadra* and *Krishna*. It is difficult to see the deities as the door remains mostly closed. It is also known as *Jagannath*. It is another form taken by *Vishnu*: *Dwarika* also



known as the *Krishna Temple*, houses three deities, left to right, respectively: *Satyabhama*, *Krishna* and *Radha*. Their images are carved in stone. In the month of *Mangsir* (November / December), the deities are placed in a palanquin and taken around the city.

► **Kedarnath Temple**

The terracotta made Shikhara style temple is the *Kedarnath* (Shiva) Temple.



► **Hanuman Statue**

The entrance to the National Art Gallery is flanked by figure of *Hanuman* the monkey god appears in Tantric form as the four armed *Hanuman Bhairab*. *Hanuman* is worshiped for strength and the devotion.

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► Narsingha Statue

Narsingha - the lion headed god, incarnation of lord *Vishnu*, posing killing *Hiranyakashyapu*, who was a power booned person. *Shiva* had graced him through a boon for almost immortal life. Accordingly, he would have none of his breathing last neither on earth, nor in the sky, nor in the air. Strategically *Vishnu* made him breathe last placing him on the former's lap. This statue dates back to 1698 A.D.

► National Art Gallery (Malati Chowk)

The *Malati Chowk* was built by King Bhupatindra Malla in 1707 A.D. This is the western end of the palace which is the section of the palace and has been converted into the National Art Gallery which contains numerous paintings, manuscripts and stone sculptures. The entrance to the Gallery is flanked by figures of *Hanuman* - the monkey god and *Vishnu* as *Narsingha*. This National Art Gallery was established by Government of Nepal, Department of Archaeology in 1960 A.D. at *Singha Dhoka* building complex of Bhaktapur Royal Palace.

Gallery has magnificent collection of ancient Paubha painting and various classic and medieval masterpieces in



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wood, stone and metal. Being actually housed in the ancient palaces one can also get the chance to marvel the original masterpiece of wall paintings on the walls of the Malla palace. It is housed in a renovated old wing, displays over 200 exquisite paintings from the 13th century on including palm leaf manuscripts, *Thangkas* and restored frescoes decorating the wall of King Bhupatindra Malla's private quarter. The gallery is a place not to be missed while in Bhaktapur.

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► King Bhupatindra Malla's Column

A gilded statue of King Bhupatindra Malla on a pillar with his hands folded in Prayer posture, legs folded and a serpent supporting the capital is in front of the Golden Gate. A small bird sits on top of the serpent's head. King Bhupatindra Malla is the most famous of the Malla kings of Bhaktapur and had a great influence on the art and architecture of the town. Like the similar column in Patan

Durbar Square, this one was a copy of the original in Kathmandu.

► Vatsala Devi Temple

Directly in front of the palace and beside the king's statue or next to the Taleju Bell is the stone built *Vatsala Devi* Temple. This Shikhara style temple is completely constructed in sandstone and is built upon a 3 stage plinth, and has some similarities to the *Krishna*



Temple of Patan. It is dedicated to *Vatsala Devi*, a form of the Goddess Durga. The temple was originally built by King Jitmitra Malla in 1696 A.D. The structure that can be seen today, however, is reconstructed by King Bhupatindra Malla and dates back to the late 17th or early 18th century. Behind the temple is a water source called *Dhunge Dhara* and next to it stands the *Chayslin Mandap*.



► Tagogan (Big Bell)

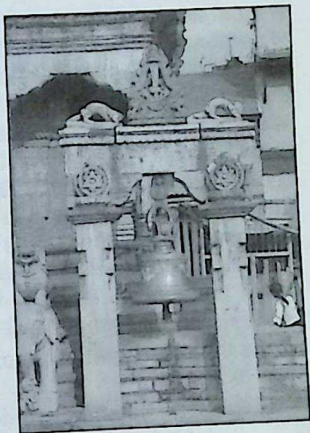
Huge Taleju bells are found in the entire 3 Durbar Squares of the Kathmandu Valley. They had multiple uses in ancient times when they acted as alarm bells during times of distress, as a means to notify the population of important events or discussions and to pay homage to the fearsome goddess Taleju.

This large bell which was erected by King Jaya Ranjit Malla in 1737 A.D to call the faithful to prayer at the Taleju Temple.



► Khicha Kho Gan

Smaller bell stands on the Vatsala Devi Temple's lower plinth and is popularly known as the *Khicha Kho Gan* which means dog barking bell. It was erected by King Bhupatindra Malla in 1721 A.D. supposedly to counteract a vision he had in a dream, and to this day dogs are said to bark and start howling when the bell rings. Unfortunately it is now broken.



► Lu Dhwaka (Golden Gate)

In front of the column of King Bhupatindra Malla is the magnificent gate, locally known as *Lu Dhwaka* which means Golden Gate. It is the entrance to the 55 window palace. The Golden Gate is generally agreed to be the single most important piece of art in the whole valley. This magnificent gilt gateway and palace was built by King Jaya Ranjit Malla in 1754



A.D. The remarkable craftsmanship is considered by many to be the finest example of metal work in Nepal.

The tympanum features the image of 4 headed goddess *Taleju Bhawani* having 10 arms and two attendants at her side named *Ganga* and *Jamuna*. *Taleju Bhawani* is the family deity of the Malla dynasty and there are temples to her in the Royal palaces in the valley. A *Garuda* (half man and half eagle), the vehicle of lord

Vishnu, above the gate and is shown disposing of a number of serpents, dragons and reptiles.

The Golden Gate leads into the *Sadashiva Bhairab Chowk* of the Bhaktapur Palace. This is the only courtyard easily accessible for visitors. Passing through the Golden Gate, the next gate is home to huge drums covered with elephant skin. The *Sadashiva Bhairab Chowk* leads to the *Nag Phuku* (*Nag Pokhari*) and to the *Mul Chowk* and *Taleju* the two guardian figures by the doorways. A few paces away from the pond is the entrance to the *Mul Chowk* courtyard, which houses the *Taleju Temple* and is only accessible to Hindus. The *Mul Chowk* was established in the 14th century and is the oldest part of the palace.

► **Nyaynyapa Jhya (55 window Palace)**

Just next to the Golden Gate stands the palace with fifty- five windows. Golden Gate is the entrance to 55 windows palace. As the name suggest, the palace was constructed with 55 carved windows. The carved windows of the 2nd floor are considered the finest examples of wood carving produced during the reign of the prodigious king. Above each window are wooden tympanums depicting gods and goddesses. This palace, which is recently renovated by the



Bhaktapur Municipality and Department of Archaeology, is one of the main parts of the palace complex. Although there was a palace on this site as long ago as 1427 A.D., it was remodelled by king Jitmitra Mall and his son Bhupatindra Malla in the late 17th century. The palace once sprawled far beyond here, but the 1934 earthquake has left only an enormous empty plaza to the east, littered with the bases of Giant temples. The series of intricately carved windows on the second floor is the specialties of the structure. The whole of these windows have been pulled in by more than 2 feet present level during reconstruction after the earthquake of 1934 A.D.



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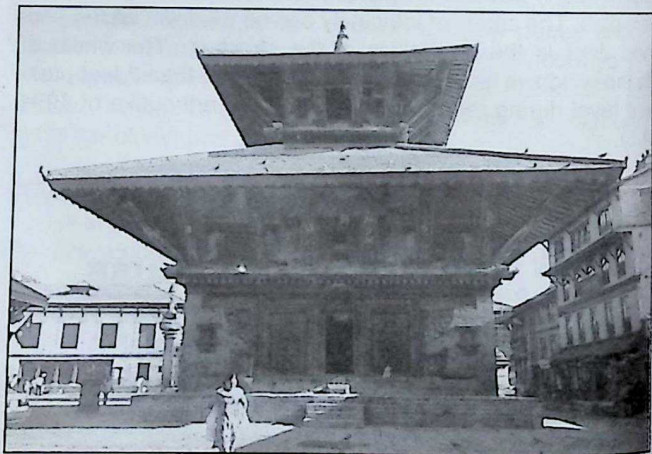


► Chayslin Dega

Beside the *Tago Gan* (Big Bell) and in front of 55 windows palace is the *Chayslin Dega*. This octagonal temple was originally a viewing point for noble writer, observing festivals and rituals. It was built during the 17th century by King Jitamitra Malla and was used as a rest house by the travelers and pilgrims. It has an open hall at the lower level. It was totally destroyed by the 1934 A.D. earthquake. It was recently reconstructed with assistance from Germany.

► Yaksheswor Mahadev

On the left of the *Vatsala Devi* Temple is the *Yaksheswor Mahadev* Temple which was built by King Yaksha Malla in 15th century and is a replica of the Pashupatinath of Kathmandu erotic carvings on the roof





struts. This is one of the most eye-catching on the Durbar Square. It is also the oldest surviving temple in the square. Legend has it that Shiva in his form as Pashupatinath, protector of animals, appeared in Pashupatinath. The lay-out and style of the temple in Bhaktapur resembles the original. The central shrine also houses a large *Chaturmukhi Lingam* resembling the one located at Pashupatinath. The roof struts are carved with exotic scenes.

► Siddhi Laxmi Temple

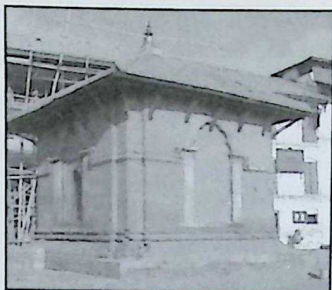
It can easily be distinguished by the use of stone and their Indian style. The temple is called Shikhara in reference to their tapering shape. Although the style developed in India in the 6th century, it only appeared in Nepal during the late *Licchavi* period, 9th century. By the south eastern corner of the 55 windows palace stands the Shikhara style stone *Siddhi Laxmi* Temple also known as *Lohan Dega*. The steps up to the temple are flanked by male and female attendants each leading a rather reluctant child and a rather eager – looking dog. On successive levels the stairs are flanked by horses, rhinos, man-lions and camels. The 17th century temple marks the dividing line between the main Durbar Square and its secondary square.



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► Vatsala Temples

Behind the *Siddhi Laxmi Temple* is another one storied *Vatsala Temple*, which is always closed, while to one side of it are two rather lost looking large stone lions, standing by themselves out in the middle of the square.

► Fasi Dega (Tahacho Dega)

The bizarre - looking *Fasi Dega Temple* is another odd remnant of the post earthquake initiatives. The large, white *Fasi Dega Temple* is dedicated to *Shiva*; this temple is one of the tallest temples in the 2nd part of the Bhaktapur Durbar Square. The temple sits on a six stage plinth with elephant guardians at the bottom of the steps, lions and bulls above them. Bull is the *Shiva's* vehicle. Today, the whitewashed dome structure is nothing more than a house for the deity, but it is clearly out of scale compared to the preserved temple base. *Changu Narayan Temple* is direct north to this temple.



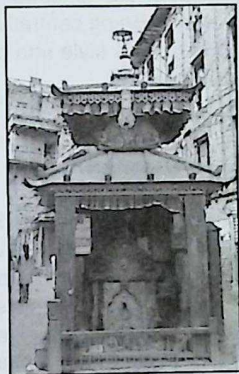
► **Jana Jyoti Pustakalaya**

At the immediate north of the *Fasi Dega* Temple is the *Jana Jyoti Pustakalaya* which was established at 2007 B.S. It is the 1st library in Bhaktapur.



► **Balakhu Ganesh**

Ganesh, the elephant headed god of wisdom and success is the defender and remover of obstacles and has to be propitiated first before offering worship to other gods is offered. He is the son of *Shiva* and *Parvati*. He is extremely popular in the Kathmandu Valley and his image is found everywhere. This *Balakhu Ganesh* Temple is next to the *Jana Jyoti Pustakalaya*. Legend believes that if somebody lost anything then he/she can get it by worshipping the *Balakhu Ganesh*.



► **Tadhunchen Bahal**

A rare Buddhist remnant in predominantly Hindu Bhaktapur, the well - preserved *Tadhunchen Bahal*, east of the square, is a gathering place for neighbourhood metal smiths in the evening; one might also hear religious music performed on *harmonium* and *tabla*. It is also known as *Chatur Varna Mahavihara* an ancient looking monastery. Near the *Tadhunchen Bahal*, there is a small temple of *Dattatraya*.





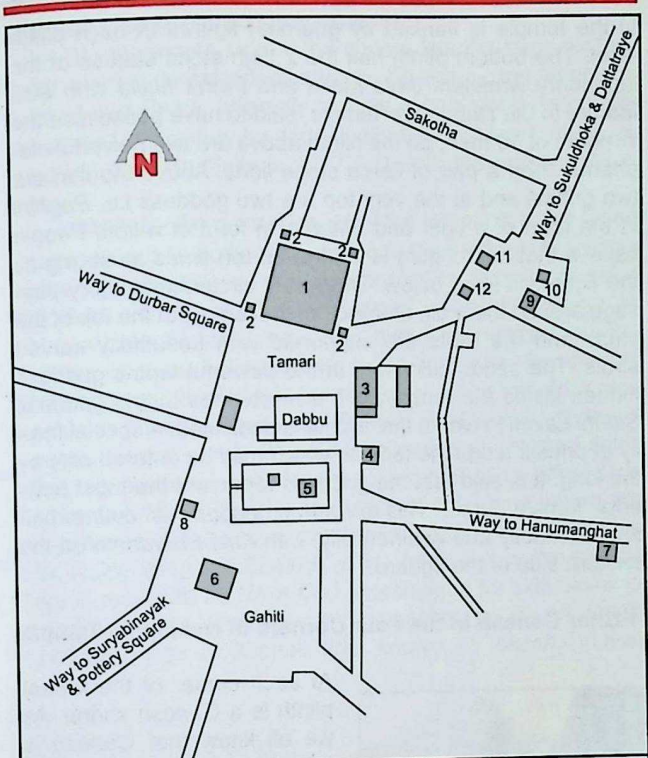
▶▶ **TA: MARI (TAUMADHI SQUARE)**

Taumadhi Square is the next place of interest after Durbar Square. It is the central square of Bhaktapur, tightly woven into daily life and rituals, and the most important location for the biggest festival of the town - *Bisket Jatra* and others, where a large number of people gather together. This square divides the ancient town into the upper and lower halves. The square is dominated by many mesmerising temples and other medieval architecture such as the *Nyatapola* Temple, the *Bhairab* Temple and *Til Mahadev Narayan* Temple. Being centrally located a lot of local activities depicting local life style and culture can be observed here throughout the day.

▶ **Nyatapola Temple**

The *Nyatapola* Temple is the tallest building in Bhaktapur, unique with its 5 roofs, and certainly one of Nepal's most stupendous monuments, lying in the south face of the square which is named after its physical structure (five tiers of roofs). This is also one of the best examples of Newari temple architecture. The temple was founded in 1702 A.D by King Bhupatindra Malla, a great builder who commissioned





Taumadhi Square (Ta mari)

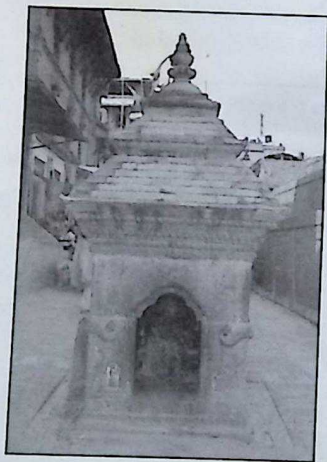
- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Nyatapola Temple | 7 Bhagwati Temple |
| 2 Char Ganesh | 8 Jaganath Temple |
| 3 Bhaila Deo (Bhairab Nath Temple) | 9 Kumari Deo Chhen |
| 4 Lun-Hiti | 10 Jageshwar Temple |
| 5 Til Mahadav Narayan Temple | 11 Mahadev Temple |
| 6 Narshimha | 12 Narayan Temple |

an impressive number of structures and its design was so elegant and its construction was so well done that even the earthquake of 1934 A.D caused only upper storey damage.

The temple stands above the 5 stage plinth and rises over 30m above the top plinth. The steep stairway leading up

to the temple is flanked by guardian figures at each plinth level. The bottom plinth has the 2 high stone statues of the legendary wrestlers *Jaya Malla* and *Patha Malla* who also feature in the *Dattatraya* Temple, said to have possessed the strength of 10 men, on the plinth above are two powerful elephants, then a pair of fierce stone lions. Above the lion are two griffins and at the very top are two goddess i.e. *Baghini* in the form of a tiger and *Singhini* in form of a lion. People believe that each figure is said to be ten times as strong as the figure on level below. There is a circumambulatory passage around the main entrance of the temple at the top of the steps and the roofs are supported with beautifully carved struts. The series culminate in the powerful tantric goddess hidden inside the temple, is the mysterious tantric goddess *Siddhi Laxmi* to whom the temple is dedicated. A special family of priests tends the temple, which may be entered only by the king. It is said that the goddess represent the most powerful female force. This powerful goddess is counterbalanced, ritually and aesthetically, with *Kasi Biswanath* on the eastern side of the square.

► Char Ganesh in the Four Corners of Nyatapola Temple

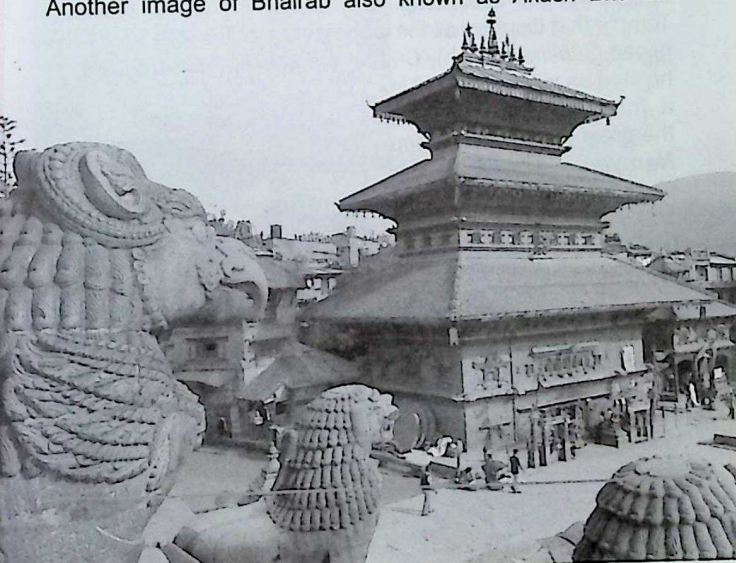


At each corner of the lowest plinth is a *Ganesh* shrine. As we all know that *Ganesh* is the god of prosperity and wisdom. *Ganesh* is a much loved god and there is a constant stream of visitors. A visit to this shrine is highly recommended by Hindus to ensure safety on a forthcoming journey as well as while starting any new work. As a defender and the remover of obstacles is propitiated first before offering worship to other gods. His mount is the shrew.

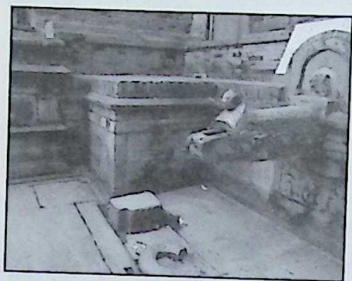
► Bhila- Deo (Bhairab Nath temple)

At the eastern side of the square lies the huge rectangular shaped temple dedicated to *Bhairab* – the ferocious form of lord *Shiva*, originally built as a one storey temple in the early 17th century by Jaga Jyoti Malla but later rebuilt by King Bhupatindra Malla in 1717 A.D. with the present structure.

Bhairab - the central image of the temple is a two faced image without its body can be seen in the 1st floor. According to the legend, *Vishwa Nath*, another name given to *Shiva* in the holy city Kashi (Banaras) once visited Bhaktapur to observe the *Bisket Jatra*. After being recognized by the Tantric, he was beheaded to make him stay for ever in Bhaktapur and kept in this temple. Hence, the temple is also known as *Kashi Vishwa Nath Temple*. Fantastically glided, it houses a once unruly *Bhairab* who reportedly calmed down after the Nyatapola goddess was brought in to offset him. During the annual festival of *Bisket*, all the same image are brought out, placed on a chariot and conveyed around the city. A tiny image of *Bhairab* at the front wall of the ground floor is regarded as *Nasa Deo* (worshipped for skill development) which is worshipped by passers by at all times. Another image of Bhairab also known as *Akash Bhairab*



which can be seen painted on a straw and hung against the wall. The actual entrance is behind the small **BETAL TEMPLE**, a hobgoblin who accompanies *Bhairab* on his annual chariot ride, in the form of a metal mask on the prow. *Betal* is worshipped for half an hour a year as part of the Bisket Jatra and rest of the time he is tied, face down, to this topmost roof beams of his temple. The temple is guarded by two brass lions and there's a host of interesting details on the front.



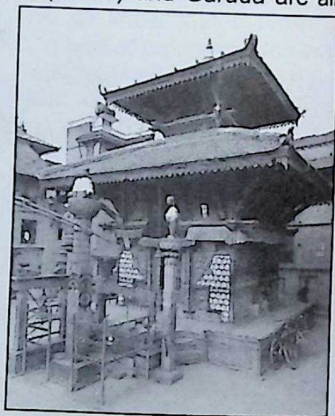
► **Lu: Hiti**

Next to the *Bhairab Nath* entrance, is *Lu: Hiti* which means "Golden Snout" one of the water conduits which is used for household chores as well as for some ritual works.

► **Til Mahadev Narayan Temple**

It is hidden away behind the recent houses on the South East of the square; so one can easily miss the square's third interesting temple, *Til Mahadev Narayan* Temple that displays all the iconography of the lord *Vishnu*. A glided *Sankha* (conch), *Charka* (wheel) and *Garuda* are all hoisted on pillars out front in a manner clearly imitating the great temple of *Changu Narayan*. Although the place was in use since 1080 A.D. The icons were believed to be placed inside the temple only in 1170 A.D.

The open courtyard of the temple is used for the sacred ceremony of *Ihi* - a ritual of young Newari girls being wedded to lord *Vishnu*.



► Narsingha Dega

Narsingha is half man and half lion. *Narsingha* statue often show a man with a lion's head and four arms holding the traditional *Vishnu* symbols. In the man - lion's lap will be the demon which *Narsingha* is about to disembowel. The double roofed *Narsingha* Temple is near to *Til Mahadav Narayan* Temple.



► Kumari Deo Chhen

The *Kumari Devi* is a young girl who lives in the building known as the *Kumari Deo Chhen*. The cult of the *Kumari* – a prepubescent girl worshipped as a living incarnation of *Durga*, the demon - slaying Hindu mother goddess – probably goes back to the early middle ages.



CAFE NAYATAPOLA

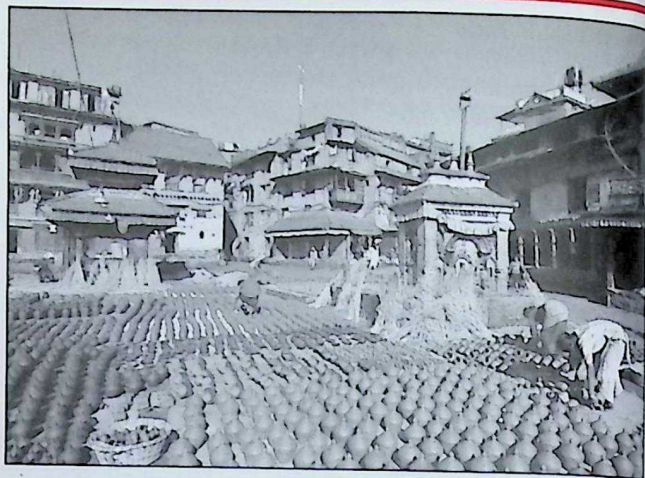
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► KUMHA TWA (POTTERY SQUARE)

Bhaktapur is famous for its traditional pottery industry. The age old craft has survived the calls for modernisation and today it enhances Bhaktapur's value as a city of Heritage. Bhaktapur has two famous pottery squares. One is located at the dark, damp alleys beckon on either side of the main road, the most promising destination in this area - Potter's square, a sloping open space south west of Taumadhi Tol. Walking towards Bolachhen/ Talakwa, better known as the town's Potter's Square, the streets are lined with small shops selling innumerable items produced in baked clay and the pavements are filled with black clay items drying in the strong sunlight. Within the *Talakwa* Pottery Square, two important temples of a solid - brick *Vishnu* Temple and the double roofed *Jetha Ganesh* can be seen in a very traditional way. On the northern side of the square, a small hillock is topped by a *Ganesh* shrine and a shady pipal tree.

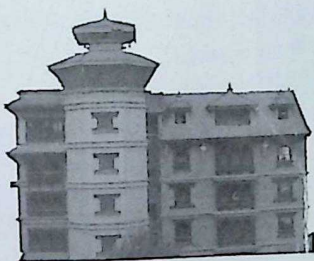
Like potters all over Nepal, the men of Bhaktapur

employ primitive techniques. The heavy old wooden wheels have been for the most part replaced by weighted truck tyres which spin faster. Guided by skilled hands, the cones of wet black mud are shaped and smoothed into yogurt bowls, wash basins, giant grain storage jars and tiny oil lamps. With the exception of the planting and harvesting season, the potters of Bhaktapur are always busy shaping the natural clay into any imaginable shape. The craftsmen have passed this technique down from generation to generation and even today, the majority uses traditional techniques.

The next pottery square is located at *Suryamadhi*. Walking around pottery square, it becomes clear that the piggy bank must be the most popular item produced here. In less visited areas, *Suryamadhi*, south of *Dattatraya* Square, potters are occupied making the traditional bowls for the famous local curd, '*Juju Dhau*'. All around the square, pots lined up in symmetric patterns dry in the sun, waiting for a final firing in temporary kilns of heaped straw.

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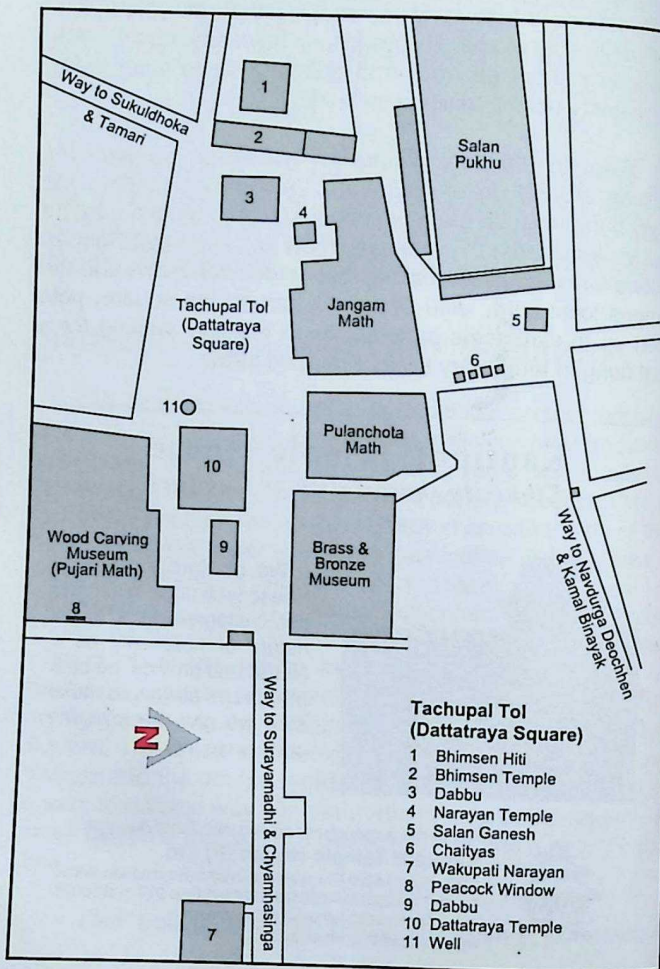
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►► TACHUPAL TWA (DATTATRAYA SQUARE)

A fifteen minutes casual walk north east of the Taumadhi Square, follow the winding brick road through the city's main Bazaar, a fascinating walk past tiny shops selling sweets, clothes, brass, toys and fruits is *Tachupal* tole. The



route passes various water taps, ancient water tanks and temples, most of them neighbourhood shrines dedicated to *Ganesh*, the god of luck. Like the other squares, Dattatraya Square is another open Museum that contains innumerable monumental masterpieces of wood carvings.

The square takes its name from the *Dattatraya* Temple. The square originally known as "*Tachupal*" verbally meaning the "grand rest house". It is famous for ornate monasteries known as *Maths*. It is another large square which marks the old centre of town. More notably, *Tachupal* conceals Nepal's most celebrated masterpiece of wood carving museum. It is linked by richly decorated *Math*, nine in total, the densest concentration of these Hindu monasteries in the Valley. Formerly they housed religious communities of ascetics and Yogis, but descendants of the original inhabitants took them over long ago as private residences. Several of *Tachupal* old *Maths* have been converted into handicraft shops and one into a restaurant.

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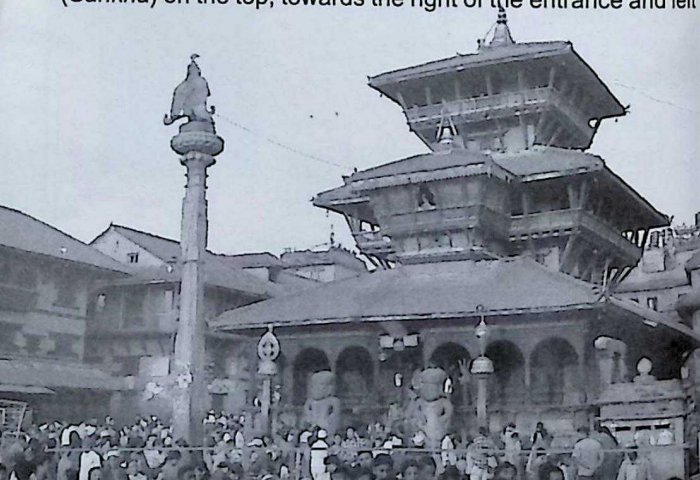


► Dattatraya Temple

At the east end or just standing opposite to the *Bhimsen* Temple and across the square, the broad-roofed *Dattatraya* Temple ranks among the Valley's oldest shrines, dating back to 1427 A.D. during the reign of King Yaksha Malla, the last king to rule the Valley from Bhaktapur and his son Raja Malla is the only temple in Nepal that is dedicated to the god *Dattatraya*. *Dattatraya* means the combined incarnation of the three supreme Gods of Hinduism; *Brahma*, *Vishnu* and *Maheshwor* (*Shiva*).

According to the legend, an influential and highly respected Indian "Yogi" returning from his pilgrimage, died here. Nepalese have the culture of considering visitors as Gods and treating them likewise. Especially 'Yogis' are highly respected as learned ones. So, the shrine was built in his memory by the then rulers as a tribute. It is believed that like the *Kasthamandap* of Kathmandu, which it resembles, it was allegedly built using timber from a single tree but the front portico as probably added later. The main beauty of the temple is its unique architectural design and wood carving artistically decorated all over the structure.

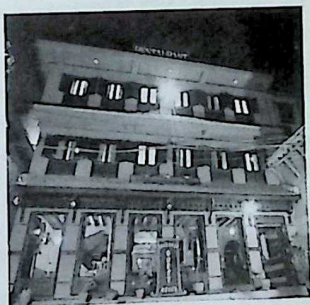
The additional attractions of the shrine are displayed at and about the front. There is a stone pillar with a metal conch (*Sankha*) on the top, towards the right of the entrance and left

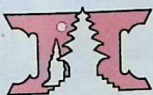


pillar supporting *Vishnu's* Disc (*Chakra*). The entrance to the temple is guarded by two large stone sculptures of *Jaiput* wrestlers *Jaya Malla* and *Patha Malla* as in the *Nyatapola* Temple. A beautiful gold gilded metal statue of *Garuda* - the vehicle of lord *Vishnu* is positioned at the front of the temple on top of another stone column. One might be interested in the wood carved erotic panels around the temple, which is still used for sheltering yogis and pilgrims. The temple is frequently crowded by Hindu and Newars, and musicians gather here to play their instruments during the evening.

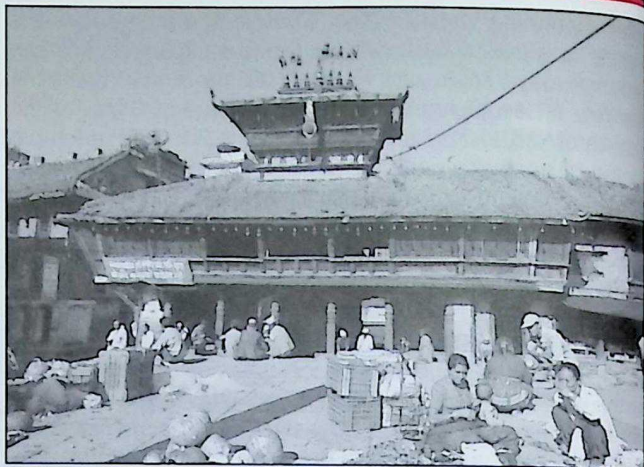
► **Bhisin Dega (Bhimsen Temple)**

The oblong temple at the opposite end of the square or at the western side of the *Dattatraya* Temple, stands a double storied rectangular pagoda styled temple dedicated to lord *Bhimsen*, the patron saint of Newar merchant, whose territory is in *Tachupal*. This temple is squat, rectangular and was built in 1605 A.D. Lord *Bhimsen* is the 2nd eldest of the five Pandava brothers from the *Mahabharata* Epic. *Bhimsen*




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is considered to be as strong as thousand elephants. *Bhimsen* is the patron of Merchants, which explains why he is popular among traders. In the old days when there was no modern transportation facility, one had to trek to Tibet and India for trade and therefore, had to be strong. In order to gain strength people prayed to Lord Bhimsen in the old days. The practice seems to be ongoing even at present times as a tradition. As usual for the *Bhimsen* Temple, the ground floor is open and the shrine is kept upstairs. The ground floor of the *Bhimsen* Temple serves as a meeting place. Behind the temple, there is the deeply sunken and it is rather known as *Bhimsen Hiti*.



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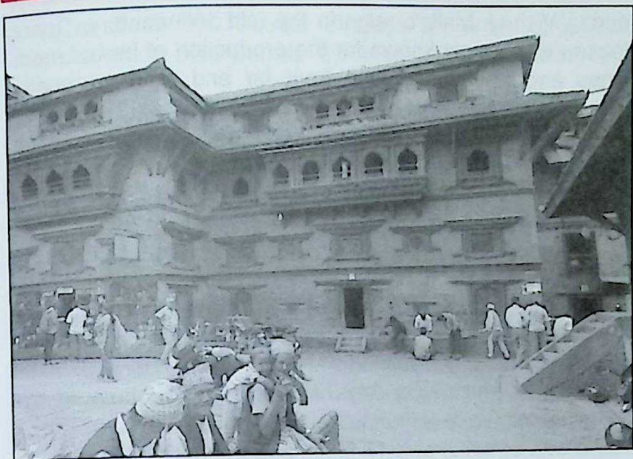
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► Pujari Math

Behind and to the right of the *Dattatraya* Temple stands the sumptuous *Pujari Math*. The *Dattatraya* Square is surrounded by seven *Maths*, most of which have been transformed into museums or shops. *Pujari Math* is the best among the entire *Maths* and the most richly architecture, which is the largest and most famous religious institution in Bhaktapur in the 16th century. It was build by King Yaksha Malla in the 15th century and was used for the storage of donations and contributions until late 20th century. Until a few years back, an annual caravan of Tibetan Lamas used to bring tributes to the monastery. The *Math* got reconstructed



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during Vishwa Malla's reign in the mid 16th century. During those days, it was known for the production of herbal medicines and people travelled from far and wide to receive instruction in the art of medicine. Then, after being destroyed by the earthquake of 1934 A.D. the German government with its financial and technical support renovated it and presented it to the crown prince Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev on the occasion of his wedding in 1979 A.D.

Now, the top floor of the Math is a home to the Wood Carving Museum, the *Math* itself is a beautiful combination of fine masterpieces of wood carvings in the forms of doors and windows. The Wood Carving Museum here has a splendid collection of antique carvings. A set of 14 roof struts, images of *Vasundhara* (1st century), Tantric images of *Vishnu Vishwakarma* with 30 arms and 17 faces and a mouth in its *Bhairava* (17th century), *Puja Devi* (15th century) etc. are a few to mention here. This four story building with 3 inner courtyards has incomparable masterpieces of hanging windows around the inside of each courtyard. The building itself is famous for the virtuously carved peacock window down the narrow side alley and a courtyard decorated with cavorting wild boars, monkeys and *Makara*.

► The Wood Carving Museum

The wood carving museum created in 19th century is popularly known as the *Pujari Math*, specially built for the



priests of that period. The *Math* itself is elegant in its architecture with innumerable intricately carved wooden doors and windows including the famous Peacock Window. This museum situ

ated at *Dattatraya Square* displays an array of wooden objects which also portray the changing social outlook of Bhaktapur.

Entry Fees:

Foreigners: - Rs. 20

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► **The Bronze and Brass Museum**

Right opposite to the Wood Carving Museum is the Bronze and Brass Museum displaying heterogeneous ceremonial and household metal ware. The collection of objects, such as ritual lamps, hanging lamps, ceremonial jars, water vessels, cooking pots, oil pots, ink pots etc., which were used in the ancient and medieval periods.

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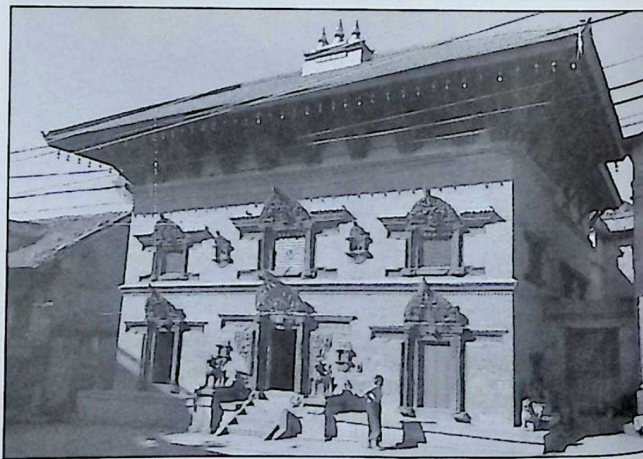
► Salan Ganesh

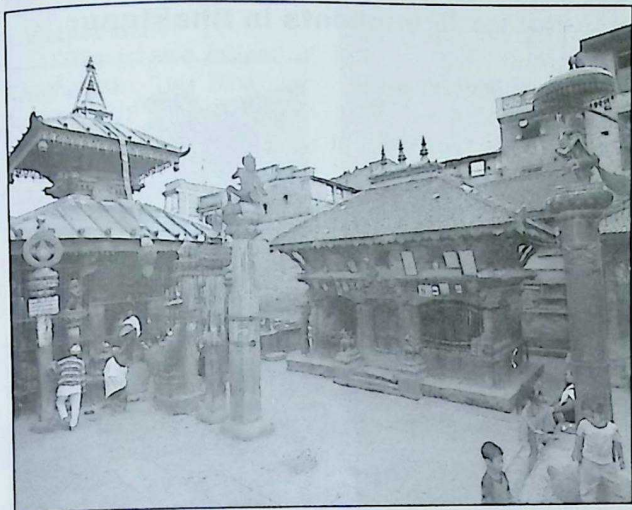
At the northern side of the *Dattatraya Square* is another small open area with the small *Salan Ganesh Temple*, dating back to 1654 A.D. The image in this temple is just a rock with only the vaguest elephant-head shape which is ornately decorated. At the one side of the temple is the *Ganesh Pokhari*.



► Nava Durga Temple

North of the *Tachupal*, the *Nava Durga Dyochhe* which lies in *Kwathando*, is built in Nepalese style looks like a haunted house. It is a Tantric temple, said to be the site for strange sacrificial rites. This temple only opens to initiate, honors the nine manifestations of *Durga*, who are especially feared and respected in Bhaktapur. *Nava Durga* is also the combination of nine protective Mother Goddess of the city. It is famous for its elaborately carved windows and doors. The golden door is surmounted by golden window and is guarded by 2 metal lions. One can see huge crowd of devotees during *Mohani* (in October), the great festival of Hindus for the Nepalese. This temple is famous for the Chariot Window placed in the southern wall.





► Wakupati Narayan Temple

East along the main road from the *Dattatraya Square*, a lovely specimen in metal work, the *Wakupati Narayan Temple* is enclosed within a stone paved courtyard. Around this area, there are more potters at work. The ornate golden temple is of two - storied pagoda style, dedicated to *Lord Vishnu* dates back to 1667 A.D. No where else other than here would one see four *Garudas*, the bird vehicle of lord *Vishnu*, at a single place in a row.



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►► Buddhist Monuments in Bhaktapur

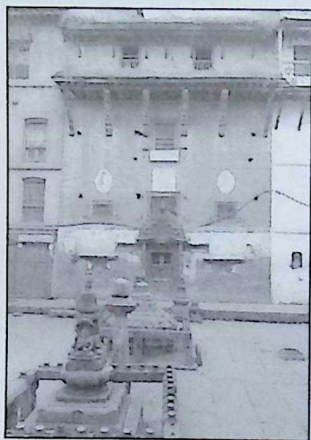
► Dev Nani (Mul Dipanker Bihar)

It is located at *Kwathandau*. It is the oldest *Bihar* of Bhaktapur. In this *Bihar*, there is main image of *Mul Dipankar Buddha* with *Abhaya Madras*, *Mahankaal*, *Manjushree*, *Ganesh*, and *Shiva-Parvati*.



► Pasu Mahabihar (Prasanasil Mahabihar)

This *Bihar* is also located at *Kwathandau*. There is image of *Padmapani Lokeswar* and *Bajradhatu Chaitya*, *Dharmadhatu Chaitya*, *Khamba Chaitya*, *Gaju Chaitya*.



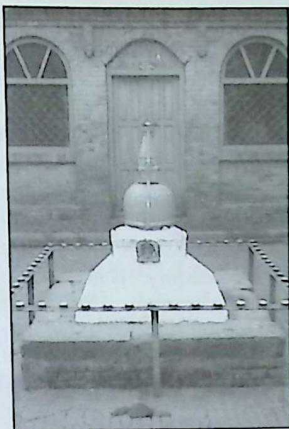
► Wang Baha (Manjubarna Mahabihar)

This *Bihar* is also located at *Kwathandau* with near the *Pasu Bihar*. The main image in this *Bihar* is *Mahabirochan Buddha*.



► Vishwa Baha

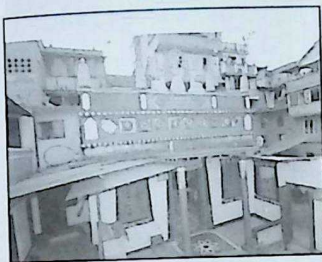
This is also located at *Kwathandau*. This *Bihar* was built in 1876 A.D. during the reign of Prime Minister Jung Bahadur Rana. There is an image of *Padmapani Lokeswar* above the head *Amitav Buddha*, *Ganesh*, *Mahankaal* and *Hanuman*



Hriday

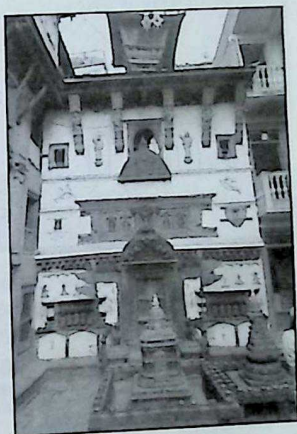
► Tung Baha (Aadipadma Mahabihar)

It is located at *Taulachhen Twa*. Without any ancient features, there is icon of *Shakyamuni Buddha*, *Biswakarma* and *Manjushree*.



► Indrawart Maha Baha (Indra Barna Mahabihar)

It is located at *Inacho Twa* which was built in 1671 A.D. during the reign of King Jaga Jyoti Malla. There is image of *Akchobhaya Buddha* with right side *Prajyaparmita* and left side *Ablokiteswor*.





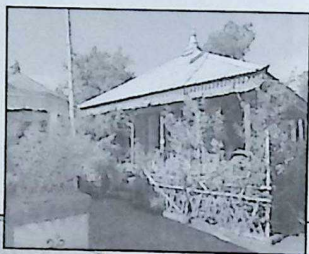
► **Ina Baha (Dharma Uttar Mahabihar)**

It is located at *Inacho Twa*. Near below the *Indrawart Baha*. It is said that the *Bihar* was built with cooperation of the *Tashilhumpo* Monastery in Tibet to commemorate *Muniji*, the follower of *Padmadhoj*. This *Bihar* is also famous for first *Therabadi Bihar* of Bhaktapur.



► **Khushi Baha (Shakarawart Bihar)**

This is located west side of *Hanumante Ghat*. There is icon of *Padmapani Lokeshwor*.



► **Bahal Chhen (Tadhi Chhen / Chatrubramha Mahabihar)**

It is located at Durbar square. Two stone lions guarding the main gate, 24 roofs struts dated 1422 A.D. with different gesture of *Lokeshwor*. The main icon of this *Bihar* is *Padmapani Lokeshwor*. The Royal *Kumari* of Bhaktapur has her origin in this monastery.

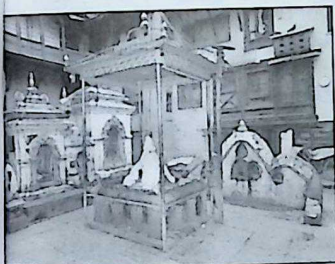
► Akha Baha (Akhandshil Mahabihar)

It is located at *Bolachhen Twa*. It was built during the reign of King *Narendra Dev*. The main image of this *Bihar* is *Akchobhaya Buddha*.



► Jetbarna Baha (Lokeshwor Mahabihar)

It is located at *Khauma Twa*. It is also known as *Laska Deo*. There is *Gaju Chaitya*, *Khamba Chaitya*, *Bajradhatu Chaitya*, *Drarmadhatu Chaitya*, *Bimba Chaitya*, *Lokeshwor Chaitya*, and *Dharma Dhatu Mandal*.



► Niwa Baha (Jetbarna Mahabihar)

It is located at *Tekhacho Twa*. It was built by *Gunashinga Dev*, dated back to *Nepal Sambat* (Newari Era) 874. There is an icon of *Maitrya Bodhisattwa*, *Padmapani Lokeshwor* and *Chintamani Lokeshwor*.

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► Yang Baha (Dharmakin Bihar)

It is located at Kwathandau. Currently, a *Mangal Dharma Dip Gumb* has been built in this area.

► Jesthbarna Mahabihar

It is located at Itachhen. There is an icon of *Saripatra Maudgalyan* and *Shakyamun Buddha*.



► Sukudhoka Baha (Lubarna Mahabihar)

It is located at Sukudhoka Twa. There is also an image of *Bhim*, so it is also known as *Bhisin Deo Chhen*. There is a terracotta image of *Buddha*, *Maha Saraswati*, *Bajarabir Mahankal*, *Dipanker Buddha*, and *Manjushree*. There is also a Hindu image of *Bhim*, *Drupadhi*, *Sikali*, and *Ganesh*.

► Jahur Baha (Mangal Dharmadip Bihâr)

It is located at Gomari Twa. Dated back to 1707 A.D., this *Bihar* comprises an image of *Dipanker Tathagat*, *Akchoyobhye Buddha*, *Lokeshwor*, *Tara*, *Bhuchaitya*, *Bajradhatu Chaitya*, *Shikhara Chaitya*, *Ganesh*, and *Mahankaal*.



► **Thathu Bahi (Jaya kirti Bihar)**

It is located at (Tinikhaya) *Dudhapati* next to *Na: Phuku* (pond). It is one of the most outstanding Bihar of Bhaktapur. There is an icon of *Gandhuri Devata*



(Buddha standing with *Biswa Bayakaran* gesture) *Lokeshworasta*, *Mandalakar Chaitya*, *Bajradhatu Chaitya*, *Padma Chaitya*, Buddha inside *Kalpabrichya* Tree, and Licchavi period *Amitav Buddha*.

► **Khuthu Bahi (Baudhasamakrit Bihar)**

It is located behind the Bhaktapur Minibus Park. This Bihar is important from an architectural point of view. There is a *Chaitya* inside the courtyard with an icon of *Akchoyvhaya Buddha*, *Bajrabarahi*, *Bajradhatu Chaitya*, *M a h a n k a l*, *Dharmadhatu Chaitya*, and *Sikharkut Chaitya*.



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▶▶ THE GHATS

River banks often used by the local people for washing purpose are called 'Ghat'. *Ghats* usually have one or more crematories where the dead bodies are burned to ashes and the ashes in turn are thrown into the river as a part of Hindu/Buddhist Culture. It is popular practice among the local to have a small temple built or an image of a god or goddess established in and around such *Ghat* areas in memory of those who died. That is why these *Ghat* areas appear very religious.

Several *Ghat* areas in Bhaktapur are as follows:

▶ Hanuman Ghat

The *Hanuman Ghat* is a shrine with a bas-relief of Ram and Sita, guarded by a statue of their faithful ally Hanuman. The Hanumante River is Bhaktapur's humble tributary of the River Ganga, its name deriving from the monkey god Hanuman who, local like to think, stopped here for a drink on his way back from the Himalaya after gathering



medicinal herbs to heal Laxman in an episode from the Ramayana. Several bathing and cremation *Ghats* flank the river as it curls along the city's southern edge, although unfortunately there's no riverside

path connecting them. The most active one is *Hanuman Ghat*, located straight downhill from *Tachupal Twa*: Morning *Puja* and bathing are a daily routine for many, while old-timers come here just to hang out. A peaceful spot, the *Ghat* packs on eyeful of cluttered lingams, statues and trees into a small area. A priest is usually set up in front of the main Hanuman image to prescribe the Hindu equivalent of Hail Mary's.

► Chuping Ghat

Downhill from *Taumadhi Twa*, *Chuping Ghat's* array of temples and statuary is more of the moldering –ruins school. The long, sloping area above the *Ghat* is the open area of *Khalan Twa*, the focal point for the spectacular activities during New Year's Day in April, when a 25 meter *Yoshin* pole is ceremonially toppled by the throng. The huge triple roofed Chariot of Bhairab (*Bhai-la-Kha*) is assembled from the parts scattered beside the Bhairab Nath temple in *Taumadhi Tole*.



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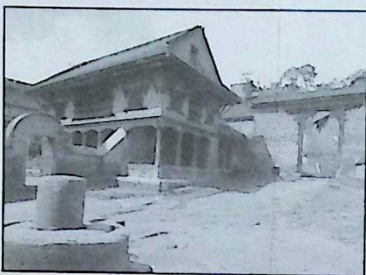


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► Ram Ghat

Below the potter's square is the *Ram Ghat* which has little to offer beyond a run-of-the-mill Ram temple.



► Mangal Ghat

Further downstream, boasts a more atmospheric selection of neglected artifacts, and by following the trail of lingams across the river one will end up at a forbidding Kali temple in one of Bhaktapur's satellite villages.

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» Walking Tour

» Bansagopal - Pottery Square - Taumadhi Square - Dattatraya Square

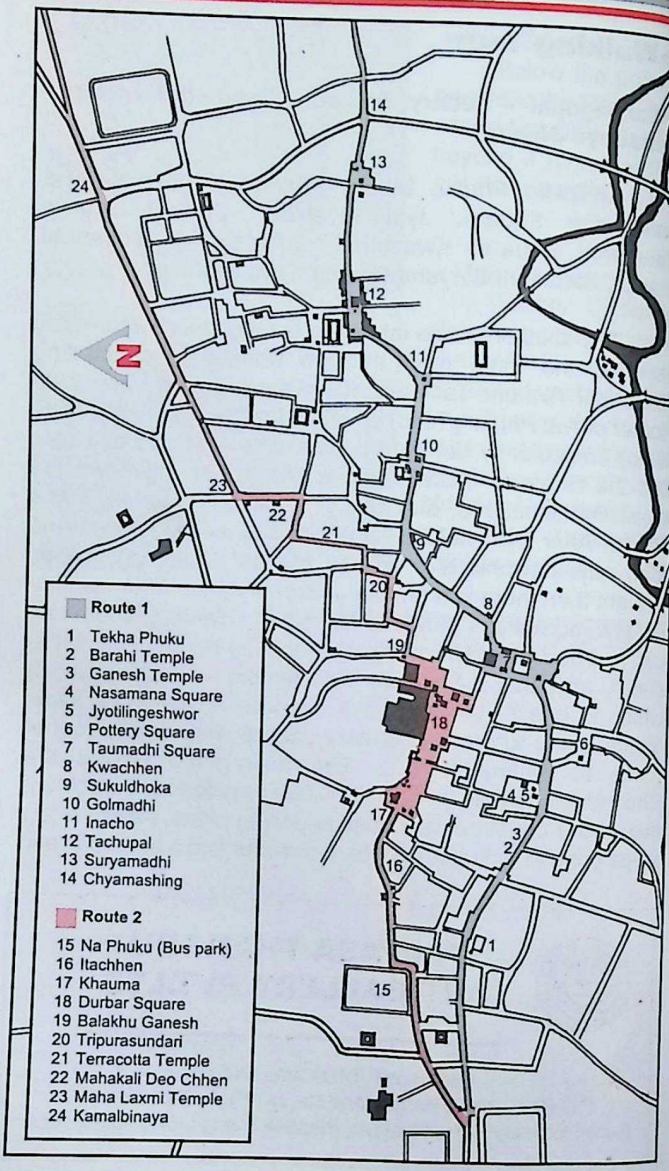
1. *Tekha Phuku*, Barahi Temple, Ganesh Temple, Nasamana Square, Jyotilingeshwor, Pottery Square, Taumadhi Square, Kwachhen, Sukuldhoka, Golmadhi, Inacho, Tachupal, Suryamadhi and Chyamashing.

The southern route into town is much more interesting as it is the main road through Bhaktapur connecting Taumadhi *Twa* and Tachupal *Twa*. One can start from south corner of *Na: Phuku* (Pond) and then find the lion Gate (white Gate) immediately before the town where he/she can also find the Entrance Ticket Counter. While passing down the small traditional Hiti, one can see the much larger *Tekha Phuku*. After that, he/she can find the junction where the road runs downhill is a way to *Mangal Ghat* and if goes straight then there is a temple of Barahi *Ajima*. After continuing few more steps brings to Nasamana Square, where one can find traditional Hiti, platform (*dabbu*), Garuda, and immediately after this a *Shikhara* style temple –Jyotirkingeshwor which is one of the important lingams. A few more steps brings to the turn off to pottery square while a little farther takes to Taumadhi *Twa*. The main road beside the Bhairavnath temple in Taumadhi *Twa* runs toward Kwachhen *twa* where the street is a busy shopping place. Again, a few steps bring to Sukuldhoka where one can find a superb Wood



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Route 1

- 1 Tekha Phuku
- 2 Barahi Temple
- 3 Ganesh Temple
- 4 Nasamana Square
- 5 Jyotilingeshwor
- 6 Pottery Square
- 7 Taumadhi Square
- 8 Kwachhen
- 9 Sukuldhoka
- 10 Golmadhi
- 11 Inacho
- 12 Tachupal
- 13 Suryamadhi
- 14 Chyamashing

Route 2

- 15 Na Phuku (Bus park)
- 16 Itachhen
- 17 Khauma
- 18 Durbar Square
- 19 Balakhu Ganesh
- 20 Tripurasundari
- 21 Terracotta Temple
- 22 Mahakali Deo Chhen
- 23 Maha Laxmi Temple
- 24 Kamalbinaya

carving Priest House and few steps ahead is the Lun Baha (*Suku Dhoka Baha* – see in Buddhist Monuments). Immediately after this is a Golmadhi with a *hiti* one of the deepest *hiti* in Bhaktapur and near to that *hiti* is a temple of Mahadev. At the right side of the street is Ram Bhajan *Mandir* and pagoda style Ganesh *Mandir* and adjacent to it is a Chi baha (*Chaitya*). Next is Inacho *Twa* where there is Inacho Baha and few steps ahead is a Tachupal *Twa* (Dattatraya Square). If one starts the journey from the north of the Square then, there is a Salan Ganesh and turning right one can view the Nava Durga *Deo Chhen*. From there one can reach the Kamalbinayak bus stand where he/she can get the bus to go Kathmandu, Nagarkot and Jagati. In the journey back to the Dattatraya temple, on the way one will find the Bramhayani *Deo Chhen*, Wakupati Narayan and Suryamadhi Square (Suryamadhi Square is also known as secondary pottery square.).

► North of Bhaktapur

Na Pukhu-Dubar Square – Tripurasundari- Mahakali- Mahalaxmi-Kamalbinayak

2. Na *Phuku* (Bus park), Itachhen, Khauma, Durbar Square, Balakhu Ganesh, Tripurasundari, Terracotta Temple, Mahakali *Deo Chhen*, Maha Laxmi Temple, Kamalbinayak.

From the side of Na *Phuku* i.e. local bus stop one can view the Changu Narayan Temple as well as beautiful mountain range in the north. After a few minutes walk is Itachhen



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and Khauma *Twa* where you can find Shiva Parvati Temple, Shiva Temple, and Indrayani *Deo Chhen*. There is Khauma *Dhwaka* – the white gate where one can find the Entrance Ticket Counter. After entering the gate or *Dhwaka*, one is at the Durbar Square. The view across the square is spectacular. Coming from the main square to the secondary square i.e. northeastern corner of Durbar Square is Fasi *Dega* and continue a little one find the Balakhu Ganesh Temple. If one goes straight from the Balakhu Ganesh Temple, he/she will reach the Mahakalishtan that is the way to Changu Narayan Temple. Again, if one goes right of Balakhu Ganesh Temple, he/she will reach the Tripurasundari Square with Tripurasundari *Deo Chhen*. After continuing few steps turn right, again left, and walk few steps brings to the Terra-cotta house. Continuing few steps one will find Mahakali *Deo Chhen* and Bholachhen *Phuku*. Just beyond this temple, turn right, walk ahead toward the takes the Maha Laxmi Temple. Going straight ahead reaches the Kamalbinayak bus stand.



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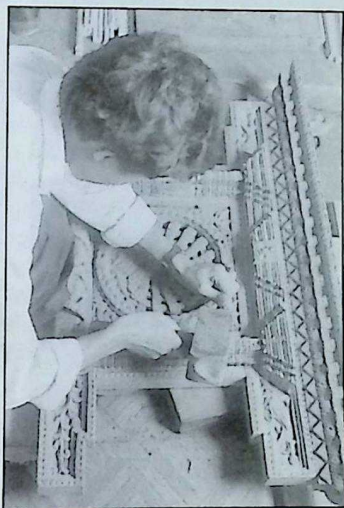


►► PRODUCTS OF BHAKTAPUR

Bhaktapur is rich in its traditional culture and skill. The generations of master craftsmen have been carrying on their time – honoured traditions of arts & crafts. There are plenty of shops and stalls catering to visitors around Durbar Square and Taumadhi *Tòle*. Some of the major products of Bhaktapur are as follows.

► Wood Carvings

The art of wood carving has been the pride of Nepal for many centuries. Wood work has been part of the traditional architecture of Nepal and wood carvings have graced monasteries, temples, palaces and residential houses since the 12th century. Bhaktapur is renowned for its wood carving and one of the good examples in the Handicrafts centres. The rich masterpieces in wood carving on the struts, pillars, windows of temples and buildings still boast the skill of the craftsmen of Bhaktapur. Today, wood carving products like wooden frames, lamp stands, jeweller boxes, statues, etc., have become the popular souvenirs for foreigners as well as locals.



Fabulously carved furniture, toys and masterpieces of windows or sculptures - anything might catch the visitors' attention. Wood carving continues to play an important role in the traditional constructions being built in the valley today. Traditionally, wood carving was confined to *Newari* artisans or *Kami* (*Silpakar*).

► Paubha / Thangkas Paintings

Bhaktapur is reputed to be a centre for *Thangkas* painting. *Thangkas* are painted on cotton canvas with water soluble pigments, both mineral and organic, tempered with an herb and glue solution.

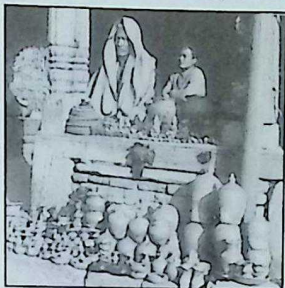


The entire process demands great mastery over the drawing and perfect understanding of econometric principles. The physical construction of *Thangkas*, as with the majority of Buddhist art, is highly geometric. Arms, legs, eyes, nostrils, ears, and various ritual implements are all laid out on a systematic grid of angles and intersecting lines. A skilled *Thangkas* artists will generally select from a variety of pre-designed items to include in the composition, ranging from alms, bowls and animals, to the shape, size, and angle of a figure's eyes, nose, and lips. The process seems very scientific, but often requires a very deep understanding of the symbolism of the scene being depicted, in order to capture the essence or spirit of it. *Paubha* and *Thankas* are religious murals made on

canvas usually depicting images of the Hindu and Buddhist deities, their incarnation and philosophies.

► Terracotta

Bhaktapur is the centre of terracotta products. The two pottery squares are widely popular for pottery products. Potters, who are *Kumaha* by cast, are popular to shape the clay in various forms. First lumps of clay are shaped on wheels and dried under the sun for two to three days. Then, they are fired in chimneys for three full days. Potters are ever busy making small to large pots, statues of animals, birds, toys, etc.



► Traditional Masks

Bhaktapur is also renowned for traditional mask production. Masks are usually produced by the people of special cast called *Pun*. Black clay, cotton, white cloths, Nepali paper and paints in the hands of these skilled *Puns* produce masks that are used in traditional dances including the famous Nava Durga dance. Small as well as large replicas can serve as an attractive piece of souvenir.



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► Handloom

Modernisation has some how affected the traditional handloom products but still Bhaktapur is famous for its traditional hand cloths. If one walks through the tranquil alleys of Bhaktapur, he/she may still hear the sound of the handloom *tan*. *Haku Patasi* - solid black with red bordered *Saris*, *Patuka*, Shawl, *Kopya Nan*, Natural Black Cap i.e. *Taka Topi* are the typical *Newari* dresses woven in *Newari* designs using handloom products. The *Topi* are another Bhaktapur's speciality. The expert weavers are now producing Pashmina scarves and shawls as well.



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► Jujudhau (king curd) / yogurt

The city of Bhaktapur is renowned for its *Juju Dhau* or *Bhaktapur Ko Dahi* (curd from Bhaktapur). Traditionally, the buffalo milk is used to produce this delicacy. The tasty yogurt is also known as King Curd. It is the typical desert in the *Newari* community. In every ceremonial feast, yogurt plays an important role. One should not miss it while visiting Bhaktapur. A visit to Bhaktapur is not complete without trying a bowl of *Juju Dhau*.



Hriday

► Metal crafts

It is also one of the important products of Bhaktapur, usually produced by a cast called *Tama* (*Tamrakar*). They are still crafted in the same method used at the time the craft originated centuries ago and represent auspicious, religious and powerful deities. Then, there are the hand tapped pots, vases and bells used in homes all over Nepal. One can find people at work in the small alleys of *Sakotha*.



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▶ PLACES AROUND BHAKTAPUR



▶ Surya Binayak

Situated in the beautiful surroundings of Bhaktapur, the temple of Ganesh is placed in a sylvan setting to catch the 1st rays of the rising sun. Surya Binayak is one of the valley's four main Ganesh shrines. A steep stairways climbs up to the temple on a forested hilltop. Lord Ganesh is very popular as the god of wisdom and good luck, among Hindus. Devotees throng this temple especially on Tuesday and Saturday to pay homage and offer animal sacrifices to the elephant-headed deity. The image of the god sits in an enclosure in the bottom of a *Shikhara* and there's a second golden image on the *Shikhara* spire. Statues of kneeling devotees face the image and the *Shikhara* is flanked by large bells. It is a good picnic spot flanked by many attractive landscapes. During marriage seasons, one may get an opportunity to see the newly married couples seeking blessing from the god for peace, pleasure and mutual harmony in their marital life. Because of its height, the place is also pleasant to view the Bhaktapur city as well as the Himalayan panorama.

Behind the main temple, there exists a very thick forest of *Schima wallichii* and *Castanopsis indica* with thick under-



growth. It is very lively to see the flowering of many wild plants in spring. Rhododendron arboreum, the national flower of Nepal, blooms in spring season at the upper level of the forest. The whole forest turns reddish during the season. Different types of orchids are also found hanging in the trees in this forest all the year round. This forest is one of the best breeding grounds for different kinds of resident and migratory birds. Lot of warblers can be seen during winter. Winter is the best time for bird watching in these areas as various species of birds can be seen and the forest will be free from leeches. Moreover, it is one of the best wintering grounds for finches, warblers, and many other birds. It is the best refugee place and breeding ground for many summer visitors like flycatchers, cuckoos and bee-eaters. Many resident birds like Doves, Magpie, Treepie, Woodpeckers, Flower Peckers, Nuthatches, Laughing - Thrushes, Minivet, Barbets and Bulbuls can be seen everywhere in the forest. The eastern and south eastern parts of the forest, which are more exposed to the sun rays, have greater bird species. Bird

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activities in that part of the forest areas are more easily seen in the early morning. This forest area is the second place where White - Bellied Yuhina can be seen in the Valley.

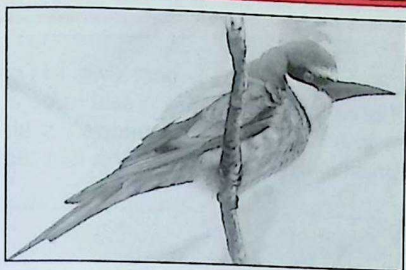
**Following birds can be seen frequently in and around
Surya Binayak forest areas.**

Kali pheasant	Grey backed shrike
Grey-capped pygmy woodpecker	Eurasian jay
Brown- fronted Woodpecker	Black- headed Jay
Fulvous- breasted Woodpecker	Red-billed blue Magpie
Rufous woodpecker	Grey treepie
Lesser Yellow nape	House crow
Great Barbet	Large billed Crow
Blue- throated Barbet	Long Tailed Minivet
White- throated kingfisher	Scarlet Minivet
Indian Cuckoo	Yellow bellied Fantail
Eurasian Cuckoo	Black Drongo
Asian Koel	Ashy Drongo
Green billed Malkoha	Blue Rock thrush
Rose ringed parakeet	Blue whistling Thrush
Rock pigeon	Grey winged Blackbird
Oriental turtle Dove	Rufous- gorgeted flycatcher
Spotted dove	Red throated flycatcher
Black kite	Verditer Flycatcher
Eurasian sparrow hawk	Rufous bellied Niltava
Common Buzzard	Grey headed canary flycatcher
Steepe Eagle	Orange flanked bush Robin
Common Kestrel	Oriental Magpie Robin
Little Egret	Common stonechat
Cattle Egret	Pied Bush chat
Long- tailed shrike	Grey Bush chat
	Chestnut- tailed starling



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Himalayan Bulbul
Red-rumped Bulbul
Lemon rumped warbler
Hume's warbler
Greenish warbler
Blyth's leaf warbler
Golden spectacled warbler
Grey hooded warbler
Black faced warbler
Chestnut crowed Laughing
thrust

Rusty cheeked scimitar Babbler
Black chinned babbler
Red billed leiothrix
Black eared shrike Babbler
White bellied Yuhina
Thick billed Flowerpecker
Fire breasted Flowerpecker
Crimson sunbird
House sparrow
Eurasian tree sparrow
White Wagtail
Large Cuckoo Shrike
Black winged Cuckoo shrike
Black Bulbul
Oriental White- eye
Common Tailorbird
Common Chiff Chaff
Dusky leaf warbler
Tickell's leaf warbler

Source: Suresh Shakya

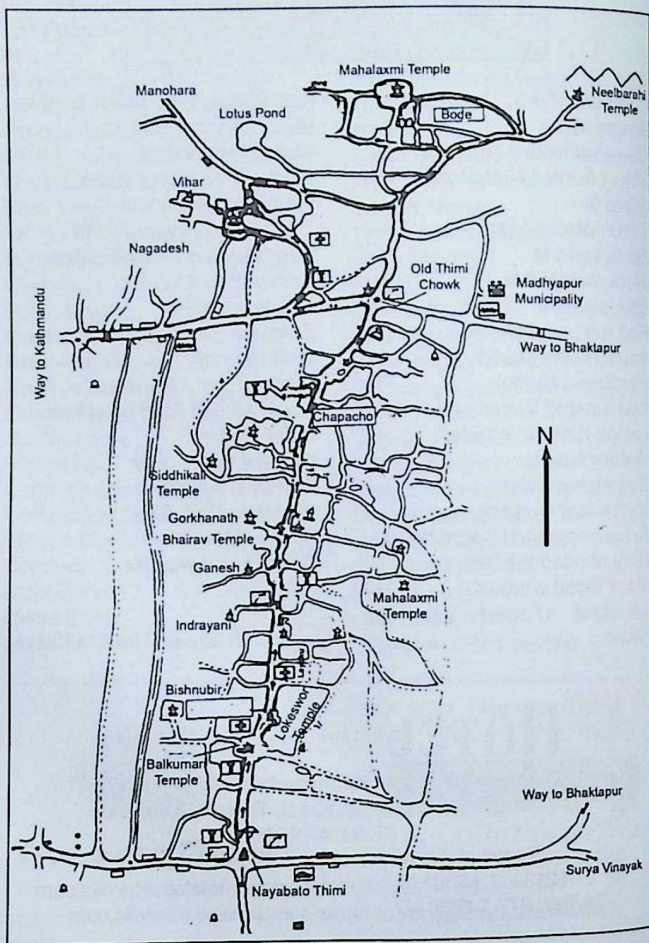


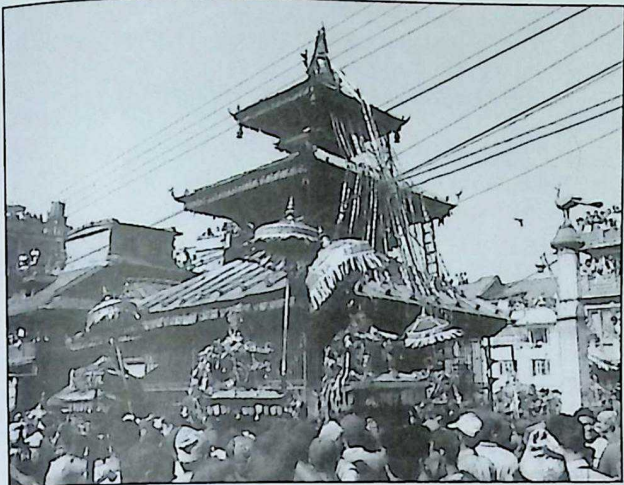
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► Thimi

Thimi, the valley's fourth- largest town, lies on a plateau 4km west of Bhaktapur. The name is said to be a corruption of *Chhemi*, which means "capable people", a bit of flattery offered by Bhaktapur to make up for the fact that the town





Hriday

used to get mauled every time Bhaktapur picked a fight with Kathmandu or Patan. Thimi, a large *Newari* village built on a raised plateau surrounded by a sea of fields. The town's main artery, accessible only on foot, runs north-south, linking a series of temple-studded square. This place is better known for its superb craftsmanship on ceramics and papier-mâché masks, as well as green vegetables. Pottery is an even older local specialty, and one can watch potters at work in alleys and courtyards all over the north end of town. The process is the same as in Bhaktapur, except that the capable people of Thimi have traded in their traditional wooden wheels for concrete-filled truck tyres. Pottery doesn't travel well, but one might be tempted by the elephant shaped flower pots. Balkumari Temple, a 16th century pagoda located near the southern end of the main north-south lane is the focus of frenzied New Year's festival in April, when dozens of deities are ferried around on palanquins and red powder is thrown like confetti. Many festivals are celebrated here with music and dances performed on various occasions. The Festival of 32 Palanquins of Deities, Tongue Boring Festival, different



kinds of mask dances like Mahakali Dances, Bhairab Dance, Folk Dances, *Jyapu Jyapuni* Dance, *Lusi* Dance are a few to name.

Buddhist Monuments in Thimi

<u>Name of Monuments</u>	<u>Address</u>
Digu Baha (Guna Kirti Mahabihar)	Digu Twa
Yachi Baha (Hera Nilbarna Mahabihar)	Kirti Twa
Nhu Baha (Hera Subarna Mahabihar)	chapach Twa
Ta: Baha (Hem Barna Mahabihar)	Maru Twa
Wakye Baha (Guna Wakya Mahabihar)	Chapacho Twa
Dathu Baha (Jetwan Mahabihar)	Kusum Tungchi Twa
Jiswan Baha (Purbasthit Mahabihar)	Gadcha
Pati Baha (Pati Mahabihar)	Pacho Twa
Gunga Chiva (Navchaitya Mahabihar)	Pacho Twa

Sindoor Jatra @ Madhyapur – Nepali New Year

S.N.	Events (A.D.)	When? (B.S.)	When?	Where?	Time
1	Bishnu Bir Jatra Siddhi Ganesh Jatra	April	30 Chaitra	Nagades	4.00 PM 11.00 PM
2	Bal Kumari Jatra Dakshin Barahi Jatra Bishnu Bir Jatra	April	1 Baishakh	Bal Kumari Bal Kumari Bal Kumari	2.00 PM Afternoon Evening
3	32 Palanquins Festival Tongue Penetration Festival Siddhi Ganesh Jatra	April	2 Baishakh	Bal Kumari Bode Nagades	7.00 AM 12 Noon 7.00 AM



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► Mahakali

At the north eastern side of Bhaktapur, right towards Nagarkot is the Mahakali Temple where the shrine tops a small hill and it is reached by a steep flight of steps.



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► Changu Narayan Temple

Situated on a small hillock, the temple of Changu Narayan is decorated with magnificent arts works in metal and wood. In fact it is one of the finest examples of Nepalese architecture. It was listed in the World Heritage Site in 1979 A.D. as bearing a unique testimony to the cultural tradition.

The beautiful and historic temple of Changu Narayan is about 6 km north of Bhaktapur. Although the temple dates back to 1702 A.D. when it was rebuilt after a fire, its origin goes right back to the 4th century and there are many important stone images and sculptures dating from the *Licchavi* period. It is said to have been built by King Hari Datta Verma in 323 A.D. Despite the temple's beauty, it attracts relatively few visitors because of its comparative inaccessibility, although these days one can drive right to the temple via Bhaktapur.



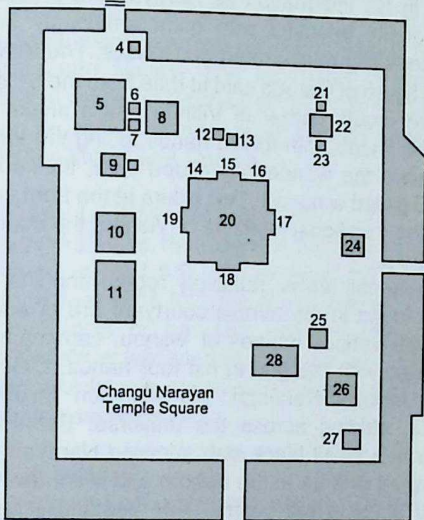


2
Way to Bhaktapur

1

3

Changu Narayan Temple



- 1 Hiti
- 2 Gaoun Dhoka Pokhari
- 3 Bhairab Falcha
- 4 Bhairab
- 5 Laxmi Narayan Temple
- 6 Narshimha
- 7 Vishnu Vikram
- 8 Kileswor Mahadev Temple
- 9 Voshworup
- 10 Badeshwor Mahadev Temple
- 11 Chhinnamasta Temple
- 12 Statue of Malla King & Queen
- 13 Statue of Garuda
- 14 Pillar with conch shell symbol
- 15 Stone Lion
- 16 Pillar with Chakra
- 17 Winged Lions
- 18 Griffins
- 19 Elephant
- 20 Changu Narayan Temple

Way to Buspark, Bhaktapur & Nagarkot

29



- 21 Garuda Narayan
- 22 Krishna Temple
- 23 Shreedhar Narayan
- 24 Ntेशwor
- 25 Madhav Narayan
- 26 Maha Vishnu
- 27 Shiva Lingam
- 28 Parijat tree with platform
- 29 Bhimsen Falcha
- 30 Balampur Falcha
- 31 Open sky museum



Alternatively, it makes a pleasant walk from this town or an interesting destination on the walk down from Nagarkot.

Climb up the ancient stone steps leading to the top of the hill. A large square courtyard embraces the classical broad - roofed pagoda, this latest version dating from the early 18th century. The double roofed temple is dedicated to Vishnu in his incarnation as Narayan the preserver, and is exceptionally beautiful with quite amazingly intricate roof struts depicting multi-armed goddesses. The temple is fronted by a figure of Garuda said to date from the 5th century. The man-bird mouth carrier of Vishnu has a snake around his neck and kneels with folded hands facing the temple. Stone lions guard the wonderfully gilded door, flanked by equally detailed gilded windows. Two pillars at the front corners carry two of the traditional symbols of Vishnu, the conch shell and the *Charka*.

In Nepali terms, relatively recent and the much older images found in the temple courtyard are of equal interest. There are various images of Vishnu, carrying the symbols associated with the god in his four hands. Other images of Vishnu include Narsingh, his man-lion incarnation, and Vikranta, striding across the universe. Behind these two images is a small black slab showing Narayan reclining on the serpent Ananta at the bottom and Vishnu with 10 heads and 10 arms in the centre. This beautifully carved image dates from the 5th or 6th century. Other points of interest include the statues of King Bhupalendra Malla and his queen, kneeling in a gilded cage in front of the temple. Looking at the pavement of the courtyard, triangular bricks are used.

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In Changu Narayan

GARUDA

One of the proud collection of Changu Narayan complex is the pillar with its inscription engraved on it, and installation of human Garuda donated by King Mandev a great devotee of Vishnu in the year 464 A.D. The pillar and statue of Garuda are considered to be the oldest records of religious importance to be discovered not only in the shrine but in the whole Kathmandu Valley. The language of inscription *Sanskrit* but it is written in *Licchavi* script. After Mandev, King Amsuverma, an illustrious ruler of 7th century replaced the worn out golden shield and Garuda.

STATUE OF MALLA KING AND QUEEN

Bhupalendra Malla, the King of Kantipur had renovated Kileswor Temple in 1691 A.D, and arranged the priest for it's worship. In the year 1704 A.D. the queen Bhuvan Laxmi got the enthroned idols of her self and her late husband, Bhupalendra Malla established at the main gate .The statue of Bhupalendra Malla was stolen on 2nd September 2001 and reinstalled in the same place.

SRIDHARA VISHNU

This image of Sridhara Vishnu was built in the 9th /10th century A.D. Vishnu is known under 1000 names. 24 of them are so important that they are recited daily during their worship by all devout Vaishnavas. In all these 24 forms, Vishnu is depicted standing erect and holding various emblems in his

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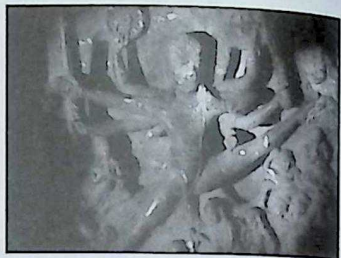
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hands. The figures comprising of Vishnu clearly dominate the two images; his consort Laxmi here called *Sri* on his right, and his carrier Garuda on his left.

VISHNU VIKRANT

Another magnificent work is of a sculpture of Tribikram Vishnu of 8th century A.D. This sculpture depicts the scene of a popular myth of lord Vishnu and his tower bail. The lower panel of the



stele has depicted the poses of bestowment by Bali to Vishnu. There are not many figures of Tribikram Vishnu in the valley. All that we have in the valley are of the *Licchavi* period including Tribikram image of Vaishnavaita image in Changu.

NARASIMHA

This image of Narshimha is an outstanding work of the 10th century. The theme of the image is to abolish sins from the face of the earth. God Vishnu in carted in the form of a half man, half-lion creature to kill the demon king Hiranyasyapu.

KANTI BHAIKAV

Guarding the west entrance of the courtyard, Kanti Bhairab commands the first respect of a pilgrim.

KILESWOR TEMPLE

The small two tiered traditional style temple dedicated to lord Mahadav in the form of a pig has been constructed in 17th century as the temple is famous for it's erotic motifs, which are depicted in the lower part of the struts. The four faced Shiva Lingam has been placed in the main sanctum.

GARUDA NARAYAN

The 1300 years old Sridhar Narayan image of Lord Krishna is in the courtyard on the left. The Garuda Narayan

in a figure with exceptional qualities and brilliant imaginative aptitude work of the 9th century, the theme of the image is commencing to fly to *Baikuntha*, abode of Lord Vishnu. This is the single contribution of the *Licchavi* period, not only the courtyard but in the entire Kathmandu Valley. This figure of Narayan has been depicted in the 10 Rupees Note issued by the Nepal Rastra Bank.



NATESHWOR

The dancing form of Lord Shiva belonging to the *Malla* period is located in front of the north gate of Changu Narayan.

MAHAVISHNU

The domical temple of Mahavishnu is in the north east of the courtyard which houses a very rare image that is about 400 years old.

THE ELEPHANT

Long ago, when the craftsmen were carving a stone into an elephant for the southern gate, it could not be done in a day. The next day, it was believed that it had moved to present location. As the carving resumed, it bled. It remained untouched and has attained a god image statue.

BAIKUNTHA VISHNU / VISHWORUP

Near the Vishnu Sridhar there stands another well-preserved and polished stone sculpture of Baikuntha Nath, Vishnu riding on Garuda, his mount. In this 12th or 13th century statue, the majestic figure of Vishnu, holding his weapons and his emblems in his main hands, is seated on a



throne made of the symmetrically spread arms and wings of the mythical bird Garuda, who seems to be at the point of taking off with his divine passenger. The statue rests on a square stone base with a water collecting and draining channel.

RAKTESHORI CHHINNAMASTA

The rectangular temple with five finals has images of the seven mother goddesses with Shiva, Parvati and Ganesh that are inside the temple. A temple dedicated to Chhinamasta of *Shakti* cult was constructed during 17th century A.D. It is situated in the south east side of the Changu Narayan Temple. According to the Hindu mythology, goddess Parvati offered her own head to feed her hungry friends *Saheli* and *Prakriti* and became famous as Chhinamasta. This name literally means the beheaded one.

VISHWORUP

A beautiful steal of Vishworup theme is placed on well carved stone motive platform. It depicts the scene from the Bhagwat Gita in which Krishna manifests his universal form to an awe-stuck Arjun. The principle figure of Vishnu stands firmly in the center of the composition. The state is segmented into three levels i.e. which represent the nether world, the terrestrial world and heaven. This is the 8th or 9th century figure, unparallel in beauty and theme, not a single *Licchavi* sculpture found in the valley can be compared with this sculpture.

THE SURROUNDING AREA BHIMSEN COTTAGE

Ascending the stone staircase from the eastern door of the temple courtyard, single roof Patti can be seen on the northern side of the courtyard. Inside the *Patti*, there are the idols of Bhimsen, Draupati, Jaya and Vijaya. In front of this cottage, there is a palace belonging to *Malla* period, having been affiliated on account of the demise of his younger son, the grieved King Yog Narendra Malla of Lalitpur had come to stay here. There is open sky museum having best example of the stone statue of Chaturmukhi Narayan including different stone statues of different periods.

HISTORICAL STONE TAPS, STONE STEPS AND POND

There are different types of monuments like stone taps, stone steps, ponds, and artistic water tank in the surrounding of the temple. These surrounding monuments and the village give the glimpses of the lifestyle of the medieval period.

CARNIVALS, FESTIVALS AND FAIRS

Since *Lichchhavi* period, many carnivals, festivals and fairs are organised on various occasions. The carnivals are called "JATRA" in Nepali. Some of the important *Jatras* are Changu Narayan *Jatra*, Kalash *Jatra*, *Mahasnan* festival and Haribodhani Yakadashi. There are special communes to organise various *Jatras*, festivals and fairs.

Festivals at Changu Narayan

1. Baisakh Krishna Trayodashi
2. Baisakh Sukla Dwadashi
3. Aashad Sukla Trayodashi
4. Bhadra Krishna Astami
5. Shrawan Sukla Dwadashi
6. Yugodi Parva
7. Dashain Parva
8. Kartik Sukla Ekadashi
9. Marga Sukla Dwadashi
10. Poush Sukla Purnima



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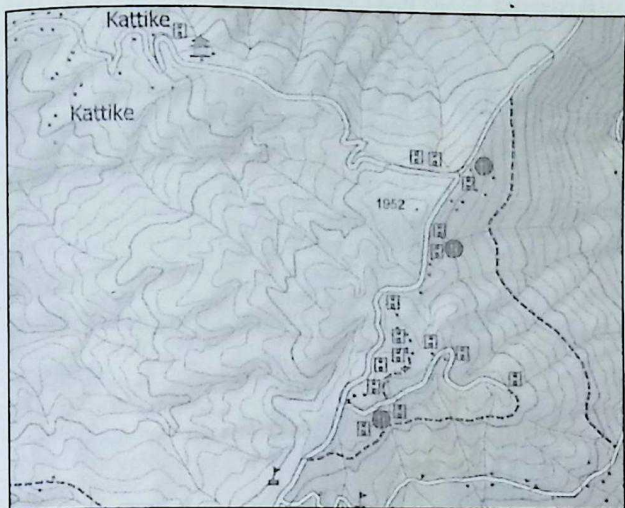
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► Nagarkot

Like many of Nepal's best highways, the road to Nagarkot serves mainly strategic, not scenic purpose. Nagarkot was originally developed as an army camp and tourist facilities came later with the government encouragement. Nagarkot is a popular tourist destination in Nepal, which is situated 32 km east of Kathmandu at an altitude of 2175 masl. Nagarkot is by far the most favoured hill station in the Kathmandu Valley. There are various places around the edge of the Kathmandu Valley which offer great mountain views. One of the best among them is Nagarkot.

No other place in the valley is so ideal like this serene place for savouring the splendors of the great Himalayas stretching from the Annapurna massif in the far west to Mt. Kanchanjunga in the far east. Beside its natural beauty, there are some historically and religiously important temples and buildings, such as Mahadev Pokhari just below the tower,



where people in and around the valley mostly flock to during Janai Purnima, Kali Devi Temple, Mahanka Panchakanya Temple, Jalpadevi, and Remboche Gomba - a Buddhist monastery. The two historical caves Chamero Gufa and Raksi Gufa are the other attractions for the tourists and Nepalese alike.

A pilgrimage to Nagarkot will nearly always be rewarded with a view between October and March, but one will be very lucky to catch more than a glimpse through the clouds of some snow-capped mountains in the June to September monsoon period. It will be very cold at Nagarkot in autumn or winter so if one is staying overnight, come prepared with warm clothing. The best thing about Nagarkot is that one doesn't have to stay in an expensive hotel to get a view right out of the window. The main centre of Nagarkot, in reality a small cluster of guest houses, is a 10 minutes walk north of the main road. The views can be stunning, and the surrounding countryside is great for walking.

▶▶ Annual Festival Calendar

14th April	Yoshin Deo Kwa-tha-e-gu	(Bisket Jatra)
	Baharai Tipwa Jatra	(Bisket Jatra)
	Kha Lwakegu	(Bisket Jatra)
15th April	Maha Laxmi,	(Bisket Jatra)
	Mahakali Kha Lwakegu	
16th April	Brahmayani Jatra	(Bisket Jatra)
17th April	Deo Sogan Biyegu	(Bisket Jatra)
	Chauma gane Jatra	(Bisket Jatra)
	Ma: ya Kwa-Swayegu	(Mother's day)
18th April	Laha Maru Yoshin kothehu	(Bisket Jatra)
	Deo Tha Bijyakegu	(Bisket Jatra)
August	Gatha Maga Chare	
August	Nag Panchami	(serpent day)
August	Janai Purnima	
August	Sapare	(Gai Jatra)
September	Krishna Janmami	
September	Krishna Astami	
September	Ba: ya kwa-Swayegu	(Father's day)
September	Indra Jatra	
September	Siddha Pokhari Mela	
October	Nala Swanegu	(Mohani-Dashain)
	(Ghatasthapana)	
October	Phoolpati	(Mohani-Dashain)
October	Kal Ratri	(Mohani-Dashain)
October	Maha Nawami	(Mohani- Dashain)
October	Bijya Dahashmi	(Mohani-Dashain)
November	ko puja (Kaag Tihar)	(Swanti- Tihar)
November	khicha puja (kukoor Tihar)	(Swanti Tihar)
November	Laxmi puja	(Swanti Tihar)
November	Mha puja, new era	(Swanti-Tihar)
	(Gobardhan puja)	
November	kija puja (Bhai Tika)	(Swanti Tihar)
December	Indrayani Jatra	
December	Dattatraya Janmami	
2008 15th January	Ghaya-Chaku Salhu	
11th February	Shree Panchami	
6th March	Sila chare	(Shiva Ratri)
15th March	Chir Swayegu	
21st March	Holi Punhi	
9th April	Deo koo-Vijyakegu	(Bisket Jatra)
11th April	Shyakotyako	(Bisket Jatra)
12th April	Laha-Marua Yoshin thanegu	(Bisket Jatra)
13th April	Yoshin Deo thanegu	(Bisket Jatra)

► **Ma: Ya Khwa Swayegu (Mother' Day)**

This day symbolises love, affection for living mother and memory for dead mother. For the living, it is a reminder to pray for their soul. It is also the day of 'looking at mother's face'. It is a day when one shows appreciation of gratitude to mother for her love & support.

► **Gatha Muga Chare**

Gatha Muga demons are erected at every *tole*. Gatha Muga made of wheat straw are burnt outside of the city.

► **Nag Panchami**

This day honors the *nags*, (serpent) which are associated with rain. Nepalese purchases nag portraits and attach them over their doorways. Then, they perform a small *puja* and leave a food offering in the yards and paddies for the snakes.

► **Janai Purnima**

Newars make a soup of sprouted beans known as *kwati* this day. Hindus change the *Janai*, the sacred thread that men wear on their chest.

Nepalese calendar

Baishakh	April /May
Jestha	May/June
Ashar	June/July
Shrawan	July/August
Bhadra	August/September
Ashwin	September/October
Kartik	October/ November
Mangsir	November/December
Poush	December/January
Magh	January/February
Falgun	February/March
Chaitra	March/April

► **Saparu (Gai Jatra)**

On the day of Saparu, families who have lost a member during the year, parade a decorated cow around the city. The celebration in Bhaktapur is the most interesting. Tall bamboo contraptions, wrapped in cloth and topped with horns of straw, are carried around the city in memory of the dead. Some proceed along the festival route performing *Ghentang Ghisi* dance.

► **Krishna Janmastami**

Celebrate the birthday of Lord Krishna.

▶ **Bwa: Ya Khwa Swayegu (Father's Day)**

This special day set apart for the veneration of one's father alive or dead. On this day, sweet, meat and other gifts are offered to their fathers. It is the most auspicious day to honour one's father for his guidance in life.

▶ **Indra Jatra**

The fields have been planted, the monsoon is ending, and the season of harvest is coming up. Now is the time to be grateful to Indra, the king of heaven who gives the monsoon rains to the valley farmers. This festival lasts for 8 days with singing, mask dancing & jubilation.

▶ **Siddhapokhari Mela**

On this day, Siddhapokhari is cleaned & in the evening it is decorated with oil lamps.

▶ **Mohani (Dashain)**

The greatest Hindu national festival begins with ceremonial Ghasthapana. This is exactly as the 1st day of the festival. Ghatasthapana literally means installing a ceremonial water vessel at a certain purified place in one's household following the instructions of the holy scriptures. Seed-grains of barley, holy water & sand from the river are the materials required for Ghatasthapana tires. Seventh day is known as Phoolpati, sacred flower day. The 8th day of Dashain, commence major offering to the Durga Bhawani in terms of animal sacrifice all over the goddess shrines. Moreover, the 10th day is the day of *Tika*. All people go to honour & receive blessing from elders & seniors having a large red *Tika* of vermilion paste on their forehead. Another significance of Dasain is linked with *Nava Ratri* which means the 1st nine holy nights, very special to the devotees of Devi.

▶ **Swanti (Tihar)**

One of the annual festivals, also called Dipawali / Tihar is observed in honour of Laxmi, the goddess of wealth and good luck. This festival starts by paying homage to crow, the messenger of *Yama* (god of death). Second day is to worship



dog, which is believed to be the guardian at *Yama's* gate. Third day is to worship Laxmi, the goddess of wealth. Fourth day is the *Mha Puja*, worshipping one's own body. It is believed that the body is divine and is to be protected from various diseases. For the same, it is said that human body needs to be worshipped. This day is also the New Year Day as of Nepal Sambat. Newar community celebrates it as a great festival. This is the beginning of lunar calendar as well. The last day of this festival is the *Kija Puja*, for all sisters to honor and worship their brothers for blessings and wish them success in their ventures.

► Yomari Punhi

The farmers of the valley are prepared for *Yomari*, the cookies made of rice powder stuffed in the sesame seeds and molasses. *Yomari* is considered as an offering to the god to acknowledge for proper harvest time.



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► Ghaya Chaku Salun

In the Holy month, the sun enters the southern hemisphere, and the day begins to grow longer and warmer. People apply mustard oil over their bodies and enjoy feast of beaten rice with lentils, yam, Laddhu sweets made of sesame and sugarcane paste.

► Shree Panchami

Shree Panchami is celebrated in the honor of goddess Saraswati, the goddess of knowledge and learning. Ceremonies associated with the instruments of art and learning books, pens, brushes take place at home. Traditionally, in this particular day, parents who have toddlers at home take them to temple & make them write on the walls of the temple. This day is very special for students.

► Sila Chare (Shiva Ratri)

Devotees honor Shiva and pilgrimage Dattatraya Temple, People in towns celebrate it with wood fires.

► Chir Swayegu (Holi Punhi)

Holi is known as the festival of color. Holi is celebrated for the death of the demon Holika. This wicked woman, who was supposed to be invulnerable to fire, tried many times to kill her nephew, an ardent devotee of lord Vishnu. In the end, she put the boy on her lap and set fire beneath them, thinking that he would be burned up and she would escape. Instead, the boy remained unharmed and Holika, to her surprise, immolated herself. The rites of this festival celebrate her end. Holi begins with *Chir Swayegu* on the first day.

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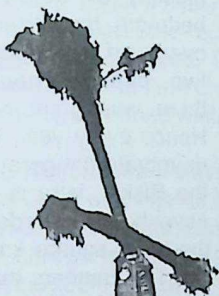
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► BISKETJATRA

Bisket Jatra festival is steeped in legend. One such legend talks of a princess who married a neighbouring prince but found him dead the following morning. She then married several times but always found her husband lifeless beside

her when she woke up in the morning. As the story goes, nobody could explain the strange phenomenon. One day, a neighbouring Prince arrived in Bhaktapur but just before entering the city, he encountered the Goddess Bhadrakali (the consort of Bhairab) in a nearby forest. She told him of the Princess and the dead lovers. She explained how they were slain by the two large snakes that crawled out of her nostrils while she slept. They would grow in size and eventually kill the Princess's lover.

They would then diminish in size and crawl back into her nostril. The Prince went to meet the Princess but after making love, he hid behind a curtain while she slept. He was stunned to see the two serpents





emerged from her nostrils and grew larger and larger in front of his eyes. He mustered up his courage, drew his sword and slew the evil snakes. In the morning when he appeared on the balcony of the Princess's bedroom, the citizens were overjoyed. He displayed the two dead serpents and there was great rejoicing. Hence every year, to commemorate the great event, the Bisket Jatra is held. A seventy feet wooden pole,

known as *Yoshin* is erected at the large square known as *Yashinkhel* near the *Chuping Ghat*. Two banners that hang down from the cross-piece represent the two evil serpents.

This nine-day festival also heralds in the solar New Year, which is the beginning of the Nepali New Year. New Year's Day coincides with the fifth day of the festival and it falls on April. The New Year begins with the bringing down of the pole, which by itself is a big event generating immense excitement and attended by hundreds of revellers.

Bisket Jatra is one of the most elaborate Newari festivals in the valley and involves the dangerous deities, God Bhairab and his consort Goddess Bhadrakali. Bhaktapur has many shrines. The festival image (the idol that is brought out in a procession during festivals) is kept in these houses and many of them are out of bounds for non-initiates as these Gods and Goddesses are considered dangerous deities. Tantric practices are common in Bhaktapur and it involves many of these deities. Special tantric priests conduct secret rituals within these houses and there are idols which only they can lay eyes upon. Hence the rigid rules barring non-initiates. For the festival, the idol of Bhadrakali is brought out from her shrine, which is some distance away from the Taumadhi Square. But the Bhairab image is kept in the third-



tiered Bhairavnath Temple that lies on the east side of the square. Bhairab is represented by just his head and this one is known as the Kasi Bhairab as he is said to have arrived from Banaras. According to the legend, the Kasi Bhairab had come to attend Bisket festival in Bhaktapur. A tantric practitioner standing nearby recognised him. Using his tantric knowledge, the tantric expert tried to trap Bhairab with his magical powers. Realising that he had been recognised, Bhairab tried to make a hasty exit by sinking into the ground. Just then Bhadrakali also recognised him and asked that at least his head be captured. The tantric then drew his sword and just in the nick of time chopped his head off. Hence, the image of Bhairav's head rests in the Bhairavnath Temple till date.

The Bisket Jatra involves two chariots and the *Yoshin* pole. This is the only chariot festival in Bhaktapur. The larger chariot of Bhairab that is assembled (the rest of the year the disassembled parts are kept beside the Bhairavnath Temple) at the Taumadhi Square while the smaller chariot of Bhadrakali is assembled near the Bhairab Temple. There are in fact, two poles erected during the festival. The smaller of the two is erected at the Potters' Square.

Days before the festival is to begin, some men from the *Sami* caste (oil pressers) go to a nearby forest east of the city. An interesting procedure is followed in selecting the tree for the pole. A goat is let free and the men watch while it picks a tree to rub itself against. The goat is then sacrificed and the tree is felled the branches cut off. The two trunks are then dragged to Bhaktapur, which often takes several days. The bigger of the two poles is raised in Yashinkhel.

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► BISKET JATRA@ BHAKTAPUR-NEPALI NEW YEAR

S. No.	Events	When? (A.D.)	When? (B.S.)	Where?	Remarks
1	(Deo Kohan Vijyakegu) Bhairab and Bhadrakali are enthroning down on to the chariots from the shrines and pulled lower side of the town	April	Chaitra	Starts from Taumadhi Square	Two chariots are pulled on in the mood of 'Tug of war'
2	(Shyakotyako) Sacrificial Eve	April	Chaitra	Gahiti	Animals sacrifice in Bhairab and Bhadrakali shrines
3	(Laha Maru Yoshin) thanegu Erection of Yoshin Pole	April Morning	Chaitra Morning	Talako Tole Pottery Square	The huge wooden pole over from length is erected
4	(Yoshin Deo thanegu) Erection of Yoshin Pole	April Evening	Chaitra Evening	Yoshin Khel	The huge wooden pole over from length is erected
5	(Indrayani Tipwa Jatra) Torch Bearing Eve at Indrayani	April Late Evening	Chaitra Late Evening	Khauma Tole	Goddess Indrayani Devi is taken around Khauma Tole in a festive mood
6	(Yoshin Deo kotheugu) Grounding of Yoshin Pole	April Evening	1Baishakh Evening	Yoshin Khel	The huge wooden pole is grounded
7	(Barahi Tipwa Jatra) Torch Bearing Eve of Barahi	April Late Evening	1 Baishakh Late Evening	Nhayesatwa /Barahisthan	Goddess Barahi Mata is taken around the Nhayesatwa with devotion
8	(Kha Lwakegu) Collision of Bhairab and Bhadrakali chariots	April	1 Baishakh	Gahiti	Bhadrakali's chariot dashes the Bhairab chariot in full passion

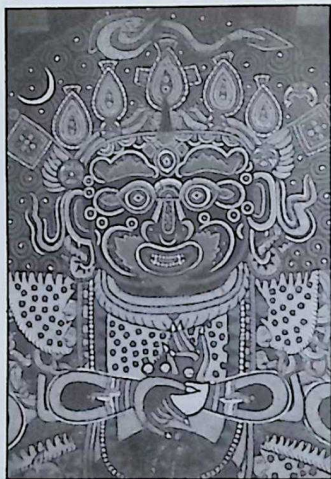


9	(Maha Laxmi and Mahakali Kha Lwagegu) Collision of the Maha Laxmi and Mahakali Chariots	April Evening	2 Baishakh Evening	Mahalaxmasthan Yachhen Bholachhen	Symbolic hugging get together of the two divine sister goddesses
10	(Brahmayani Jatra) Torch Bearing Eve of Brahmayani Devi	April	3 Baishakh	Bramhayani to Chyamhasingh	Bramhayani chariot is carried on by the connoisseurs
11	(Deo Sogan Biyegu)	April	4 Baishakh	All over Bhaktapur	Devotees in tune with cultural musical orchestra pay homage with enchantment of Hymns
12	(Chhuma Ganesh Jatra)	April	4 Baishakh	Chochhen Tole	God Chhuma Ganesh is taken all around Chochhen Tole in celebration
13	(Laha Maru Yoshin kothegu) Grounding of Yoshin Pole	April Morning	5 Baishakh Morning	Talako Tole Pottery Square	The huge wooden pole is grounded
14	(Deo Thaha Bijyakegu) Entire matrikas including Bhadrakali and Bhairab are carried back to the respective shrines from their chariots	April	5 Baishakh	Taumadhi Square	Special feature of the eve happens to be he pulling of the Bhairab and Bhadrakali chariot

►► Around the Bhaktapur District

► Banepa

Banepa, just 12 km east of Bhaktapur along the Arniko Highway, is a busy crossroad or trading post. It is a pastoral countryside of tired rice fields dotted with Newari Villages, imbued with old ways and old culture. Banepa 4800 ft. above sea level, once the capital of the 14th century kingdom that boasted diplomatic relations with China's Ming emperors. Nowadays, it remains an economically important headquarter for the distribution of goods to the surrounding hill areas.



The squares and laneways in the older northwest section are quite pleasant and worthwhile to be explored. Today Banepa is a dusty and noisy little bus stop of the town. Though the old town off the main road retains some interest, primarily in the great wall fresco of a fanged and the blue-faced Bhairab at the **Chandeshwori Temple**. It is on the very edge of a gorge. The three-tiered temple best known for the psychedelic fresco of

Bhairab decorating its exterior commemorates Bhagwati. According to the legend, the people of the Banepa Valley has once terrorised by the demon Chand. After Parvati slayed the demon she took the name Chandeshwori, which means "Slayer of Chand" and this temple was built in her honour. The temple has a beautiful coloured relief of Parvati over its doorway and the roof struts showing the eight *Ashtamatrikas* and eight Bhairabs. Chandeshwori's image is the object of a chariot festival here coinciding with Nepali New Year (April).

As part of a major renovation, this temple has almost deconstructed in 2006 A.D. The *ghat* below the temple is

regarded as an auspicious place to die and people come here when their end is near. To the northwest, a bumpy track by several brooks runs through terraced rice fields to Nala.

How to get there?

- ◀ Frequent public buses are running through out the day from Surya Binayak to Banepa for the bus fare of NRs 15 (Rate as of April 2007).
- ◀ By bike, just follow the Arniko Highway

▶ **Dhulikhel**

Dhulikhel is one of the oldest Newari towns, which was an important trade post on the route to Tibet, and is still the centre of the major sub-section of trade between the Kathmandu Valley, eastern Nepal and Tibet. Dhulikhel is 15 km from Bhaktapur and is just 3 km southeast of Banepa. Around 9,800 inhabitants sit on the hilltop (1550 masl) that is visible from a long distance.

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The artistic skill and urban ethos of its Newar inhabitants have created a place of charm and beauty with streets lined with bare-brick houses, carved wooden windows, sloping tilted roofs, pagoda temples and sacred statues everywhere. Many of the houses have beautifully carved wooden structures around doors and windows. It is also a good centre for short day trek. It is a district headquarters and has a number of government offices, a high school and even a small jail. The town remains over half Newar, with a mercantile orientation. There are various Hindu temples, and budget guesthouses catering to travelers who stay here overnight to catch sunrise views at the Himalayas from the hilltop Kali Shrine south of town. It is also famous as a well-preserved Newar town, mountain viewpoint and hiking and biking hub, but its popularity is waning as road building and modernisation take their toll. Most visitors to Dhulikhel stay at least two nights, which allows time for a wander around the old town, a sunrise walk and a full-day circuit of the surrounding countryside including the cultural sites of Namobuddha and Panauti.



The major places of worship here are the

Narayan Temple fronted by two worshipful Garudas in quite different style and the small triple roofed Hari Siddhi Temple, which adored with profused wood carvings. The Gokuleswor Mahadev Temple, a 30 minutes walk to the eastern part of town, is a peaceful and scenic spot. Bhagwati Temple is situated at a height in the western part of Dhulikhel and dominates the skyline. From here, one can get a beautiful view of the town and surrounding areas. There are many vintage points in Dhulikhel, which offers a panoramic view of the Himalayas that will leave one spellbound. Looking out over low hills and valleys, the mountains rise up in an extended arc stretching from the far left to the far right. More than 20



Himalayan Peaks can be seen in all their glory.
How to get there?

- ◀ Frequent public buses are running through out the day from Surya Binayak to Dhulikhel for the bus fare of NRs 15 (Rate as of April 2007).
- ◀ By bike, just follow the Arniko Highway

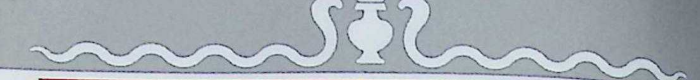
► Panauti

Panauti is the ancient Newar Village, which is also one of the former mini kingdoms, is more charming still. It leads a self-sufficient existence in its own small village 18 km from Bhaktapur and 6 km from Banepa. It is a small village at the confluence of two rivers, Roshi Khola and Pungamati Khola. Panauti forms the shape of a triangle, with a serpent idol standing at each of its three corners to protect against floods.

In the centre village, there is the masterpiece or the pride of the place goes to the massive three-storied Indreshwor Mahadev Temple, which is dedicated to lord Shiva. The roof struts depict various incarnations of Shiva. The fine proportions and exquisite carvings are good examples of the early Newari



architecture. Some authorities believe this to be the original structure that was built in 1294 A.D. and rebuilt in the 15th century. This is one of the oldest temples in Nepal and one of the most important temples associated with the Newari culture of the Kathmandu valley. In the southern part of the main temple is the Unamanta Bhairab Temple with three faces peering out of the upstairs windows. In the northwestern corner, a small double-roofed Shiva Temple and in the west a Vishnu shrine with a 2m high image of the god. Further to the east, at the junction of Roshi Khola and Pungamati is the Krishna Narayan Temple complex with some wood carvings. At the riverside are some interesting stone sculptures to be



seen and across the Punyemati River stands famous 17th century Brahmayani Temple, dedicated to Brahmayani, the second chief goddess of Panauti. An important chariot festival is held each year in her honour.

How to get there?

- ◀ Buses are running from Suryavinayak for the the bus fare of NRs 15
- ◀ Alternatively, one can take a bus to Banepa and walk to 6 km to the south east to Panauti.

▶ **Phoolchowki Danda**

It is the highest point around the valley having the height of 2,760m and one can see the magnificent views of the Kathmandu Valley from the summit. This *danda* is famous for its magnificent red and white rhododendrons. Being the thick forest, it is the home to several species of flowering plants and birds. It is one of the last surviving cloud forests in the central Nepal. For the rough road one can prefer motor-bike, jeep or walk. It would be a full day hike, starting from early morning. It is not recommended to hike alone in this remote route.

▶ **Sankhu**

Sankhu was once an important halting place on the Tibetan Trade Route, and the wealth that passed through contributed to its fine old buildings. The town is said to be arranged in the form of the conch shell - *Sankha* (weapon of lord Vishnu), by which it got its name. The pride of the place goes to the traditional Newar lifestyle and the ancient side of Buddhist power, occupied for the last few centuries by the temple of Tantric goddess *Vajra Yogini* Temple, a pagoda with a three-tiered roof of copper sheet. This temple is 2 km far from the main town, dating back to 1655 A.D. built by King Pratap Malla. The main image is kept hidden away inside, along with some rare old sculptures.

How to get there?

- ◀ Frequent public buses are running through out the day from Ratna park, Kathmandu and from Boudhanath for the bus fare of NRs 15 (Rate as of April 2007).

▶▶ **HIKING AND BIKING**

Bhaktapur has number of pristine villages with a virgin natural environment all around its outskirts. There are some villages located just half an hour walk away from the core of the city such as Changu, Nagarkot, Sipadol, Gundu, Chhaling, and Tathali village which are excellent for hiking and biking as well. For tourists who have limited time of hike or bike, these villages would be an experience to cherish. Listed below are some of the recommended hiking areas:

▶ **Changu Narayan**

Located 7km north of Bhaktapur, standing at an altitude of 1541 m, the temple of Changu Narayan is considered to be the oldest Hindu shrine dating back to 325 A.D. It is one of the seven world heritage sites located in the valley. From Changu Narayan one can get a magnificent view of the Kathmandu Valley. From Bhaktapur, a hike through villages of Duwakot and Jhaukhel to Changu Narayan takes 2 hrs and if you go biking it will just take an hour approximately. The hike offers an insight into the life in the villages and at the same time offers the magnificent Changu Narayan Temple. One can get there by local bus that goes every half an hour from near Mahakalishtan or by





motorbike. It is more interesting hike to stroll toward the Nagarkot - the hill station (2 hrs).

► Nagarkot

Nagarkot - the second highest point in the valley lying about 20km north-east from central Bhaktapur is a hill station popular for stunting views of the Himalayas. Watching the sun rising above the snow caped Himalayas and the very sun set behind the western high mountains in the evening, makes it more worth while to get up to the Nagarkot hill top. Unique hiking trails through Tamang villages, beautiful landscapes and good tourist facilities are additional features. It is an ideal trip for those with limited time but wish to get a taste of trekking in Nepal that will take 5 hours for hiking and 2 hours for biking. One can even get there by local buses that go every half an hour from Kamalvinayak to Nagarkot.

► Suryavinayak and Ghyampe Danda

Nestled amid the legendary Suryavinayak forest about 2.5 km south from Bhaktapur, the shrine of Suryavinayak dedicated to elephant headed lord Ganesh is an ideal destination for short hiking. The forest enhances the natural beauty which boasts a diverse variety of flora and fauna. The forest itself is home to over 90 different species of birds, hundreds of medicinal plants and varieties of rhododendron and flowers. Further south from the shrine a route follows uphill through the forest area popular for bird watching to bring the hiker to Ghyampe Danda, a hill top which allows a bird's eye view of the valley and the mountains beyond. The distance from Suryavinayak shrine to Ghyampe Danda is approximately 4 km and the hike lasts about an hour and half. There is a well defined route all the way to the top.

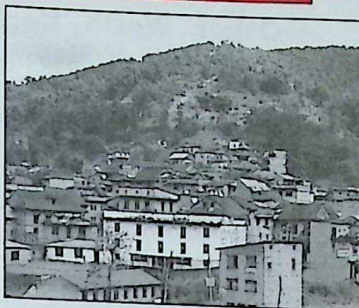
► Nala

It is another important hiking trail located some 7 km to the east of Bhaktapur. This village is praised for its unspoilt Newari settlements, their culture and beautiful jungle nearby.

There are some important shrines such as Goddess Bhagwati the symbol of supreme female force and Karunamaya - the goddess of compassion.

Besides this wondering through the villages, watching the field terrace is an awesome experience.

For the hiker, it will just take 2 hours and there also exists good biking route that will just take 45 minutes in approximation. One can find buses that go every half and hour at Chyamashing, Bhaktapur to Nala.



► Saraswatisthan (Maha Manjushree)

Saraswatisthan located on a hilltop in the Sundal VDC lies to the east of the heart of Bhaktapur. It is about 8 kilometres far and is within 2 hours walking distance from the down town city. Students often flock in groups to worship Saraswati, the Goddess of Learning. People throng this temple to worship Saraswati mainly on Basanta Panchami / Shri Panchami in January. This is also the day when children are given their first alphabet lesson at the temple. The vicinity of the Saraswatisthan Temple is also a beautiful picnic spot where one can feel the rustic traditional life of the people and enjoy the views of the city.



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► Other World Heritage Sites in the Kathmandu Valley



► Kathmandu Durbar Square

A very old Hindu text has described Kathmandu as the land of gods surrounded by beautiful mountains around. Some two hundred years ago, a western visitor wrote that there were as many temples as there were houses and many idols as there were people. Duly recognised as a world heritage site by UNESCO, this particular area best known as Kathmandu Durbar Square lies in the heart of this city. The locales know this area by its old name Hanuman Dhoka Palace Square, the seat of the Nepalese Royalty. The king no longer lives in the old Royal Palaces in Kathmandu; the palace was moved north to Narayan hiti about a century ago. At that time it was on the edge of the city, now it's close to popular tourist area of Thamel.

Hanuman Dhoka, running along the eastern edge of the square, takes up more space than all the other monu-



ments here combined. Hanuman Dhoka palace complex consists of a huge Royal Square exposing a tremendous variety of temples dedicated to different Hindu gods and goddess. Most of the buildings we see here date from 15th to 18th century. The centre palace complex here is named after a monkey god called Hanuman. One can see a huge stone statue of Hanuman painted all red right next to the main entrance of the palace. Hanuman here is regarded as a powerful protector of the entire Durbar square.

Some of the important monuments to be seen here are: Taleju Temple tallest of all structures built by King Mahendra Malla in 1549 A.D. Jagannath Temple built in the 16th century known for fascinating erotic figures carving in the wooden struts eaves. The Kumari Bahal (House of the Living Goddess), overlooks the square from the south. The square is squeezed by the place into two parts: at the southern end is the Kasthamandap (House of Wood) ancient building that probably gave Kathmandu its name, while the northern part is taken up by a varied procession of statues and temples. It's easy to spend hours wandering around Durbar Square and the adjoining Basantapur Square. This is very much the centre of old Kathmandu and watching the world go by from the terraced platforms of the towering Maju Dewal is a wonderful way to get a feel for the city. Although many of the buildings around the square are very old, a great deal of damage was caused by the great earthquake of 1934 A.D. and many were rebuilt, not always in their original form.



Bhaktapur, Tel: 6680075, 6680055
Fax: 977-1-6680020, E-mail: chautari@wlink.com.np



► Patan Durbar Square

Patan located on lovely little plateau across the river Bagmati is only 7 Km south east of Kathmandu. The City roughly inhabited by some 1, 25,000 people is considered oldest of all 3 cities of the Kathmandu Valley. This city founded in 3rd century A.D. by King Veera Dev has a distinction of being the home of the finest Newar crafts since time immemorial. Meaning the city of fine arts has hundreds of fascinating Hindu and Buddhist monuments scattered in and around. Nowhere else can be seen such a compression of marvellous monuments within a limited space like in the Patan Durbar Square. The most important monument area of course, is Patan Durbar Square. Recognised by UNESCO as a world heritage site, the square has been described as one of the most picturesque collections of buildings that have been set up in so small place by the piety of oriental man.

Most of the monuments in this square date back to the medieval Malla Period 15th to 17th century as the golden period of Nepalese art and architecture. The important things can be seen in this area includes, the Golden Gate, the Golden Window of the old Palace, the beautiful piece of traditional



metal crafts, the famed Krishna Temple entirely made of stone, this unique Shikhara style structure has 21 golden pinnacles. Other landmarks within the square are the marvellous Tisha *Hiti*, the royal both of Sundari Chowk, a perfect piece of the classic work in stone. Royal Taleju Temple, Vishwa Nath Temple and the Char Narayan Temple are the finest examples of the unique craftsmanship in wood, the temple of Bhimsen, with the magnificent golden balcony over looking the square outside plus many other shrines and sculptures scattered in and around the square.

► Pashupatinath

One of the holiest shrines of all the Hindu temples in the world, considered is Pashupatinath. It lies 5 km northeast of Kathmandu. Although the temple dates back to the 4th century, it was brought into its present shape in the early 18th century. The temple has remained the presiding deity of ruling Nepalese Royalty. This two tiered magnificent golden temple with four silver doorways is unique example of the Nepalese temple architecture located on the banks of the Bagmati River. The temple is most noted for its gold painted roof and silver coated doors. In South Asia with hundreds of Shiva Lingams, it is one of the largest Hindu Temple complexes. This temple site occupies an area of 281 hectors in total.

The main entrance of this temple is in the western side facing a small street of Deo Patan market. Non Hindus are not allowed to enter this temple courtyard. So they are advised to go on the other side of the river in the east to have



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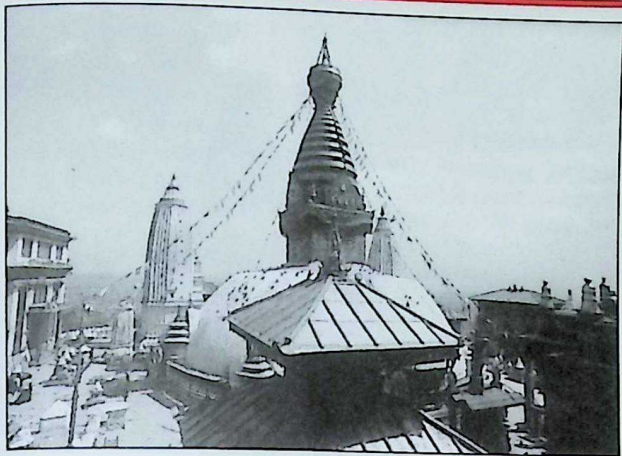
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a glimpse of the temple complex. In the middle of the spring (Feb-March) every year, there occurs a festival called Shiva Ratri. The word Shiva Ratri means the holy night of lord Shiva. On this day many devotees visit the Pashupatinath Temple and make the ceremonial fire. Most of the devotees spend the night offering prayers to Shiva. This festival attracts thousands of pilgrims from India besides the locales. Historically in the pre- Christian era, this temple seemed to have its origin away back to the early Kirat period. The stone sculptures found in the vicinity supported the antiquity of this place. This holy site is 6 km east of down town Kathmandu. Regular bus and taxi services are easily available from the city points.

► Swayambhunath

Swayambhunath is a Buddhist stupa situated on a west of Kathmandu city and about 7 km above the level of the valley. This hill is a mosaic of small stupa and pagoda temple. It is one of the most fascinating architectural jewels of the world. It is said to be 2000 years old and visitors often call it the "Monkey Temple". The stupa, which forms the main structure, is made of a solid hemisphere of brick and clay sup-

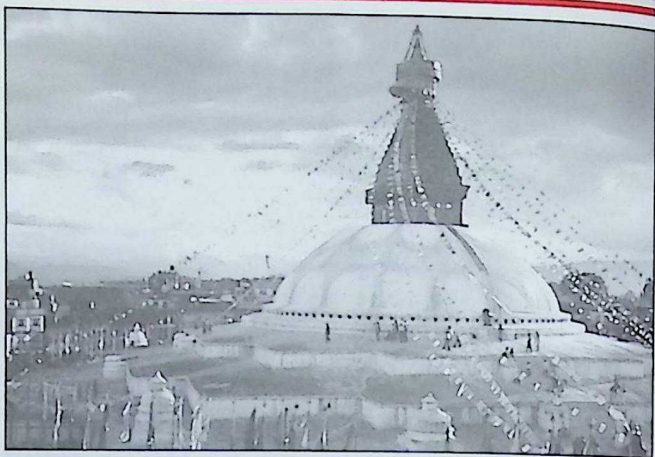


porting a lofty conical spire capped by a pinnacle of copper gilt.

Situated 6 km to the west of the city-centre, its main feature, the white dome is identified, with spotless pure jewels of Nirvana and a 13 tiered golden spire in the conical shape surmounted on the dome representing 13 Heavens and an elaborate canopy. Underneath this towering structure is a pair of all seeing eyes of Buddha paints on all four sides of the stupa. This Swayambhunath stupa stands commanding a magnificent view of Kathmandu Valley and the breath taking panorama of the north eastern Himalayan range. Foreign tourists are required to pay NPR 75 to get into the premises.



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► Boudhanath

This is another Buddhist stupa but it is built on flat surface, and is one of the oldest and the largest in Nepal. The stupa of Boudhanath lies 8km east of Kathmandu. This temple is also known by Khasti. On this colossal and ancient stupa, are the all seeing eyes of Lord Buddha. It is in various levels of terraces and it is painted in pastel, and is adorned with prayer flags. The unique aspect of this great Buddhist monument is that it is set in the octagonal Mandala design. Altogether 108 Buddha images and 147 insets of Prayer Wheels adorn the base of the huge circular edifice. Another notable aspect of the area is the presence of about four dozens monasteries around it.

The settlement of Boudhanath has the largest community of Tibetans 12000 in allw. Boudhanath is an imposing structure standing some 36m. It is surrounded by colourful private family houses. The basic feature of this great stupa is very much like that of Swayambhunath stupa except its finial displaying. It is much bigger than Swayambhunath stupa and lies on the valley floor, whereas the former one stands on the hill top. This stupa is said to have built by Licchavi King Man Dev in 5th century A.D. The site is considered very much like Mecca for the Tibetan Buddhist and every year thousands of pilgrims from all over the Himalayan region visit the stupa.

►► INTRODUCTION OF NEPAL

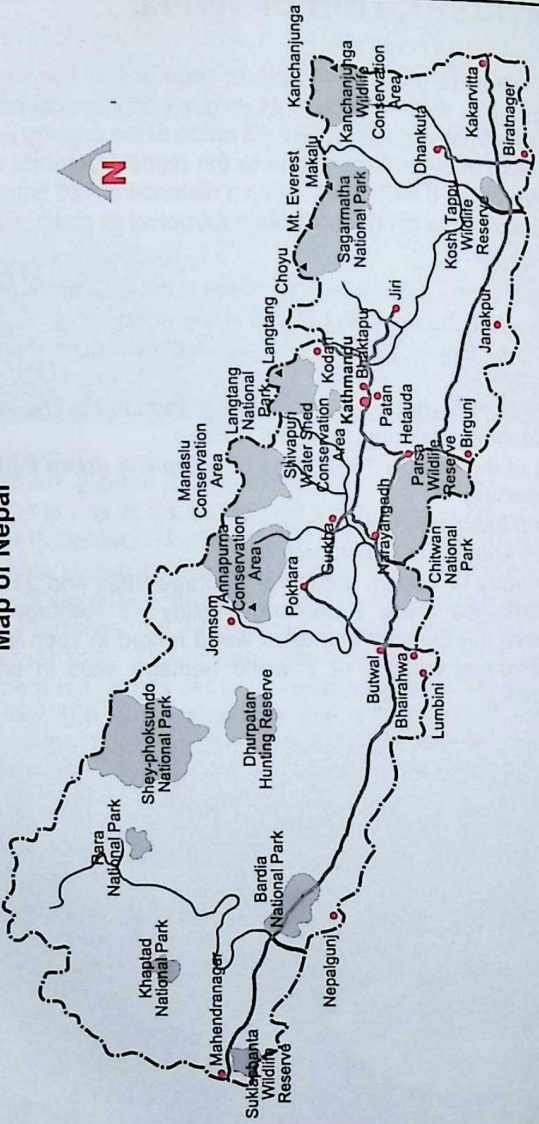
Nepal is one of the richest countries in the world in terms of bio- diversity due to its unique geographical position and altitudinal variations. The elevation of the country ranges from 60m above the sea level to the highest point on earth, Mt. Everest at 8,848 m, all within a distance of 150 km resulting into climatic conditions from subtropical to arctic.

Nepal- occupying smaller part of the earth – is home to:

- ◄ 2% of all the flowering plants in the world.
- ◄ 8% of the world's population of birds (more than 848 species)
- ◄ 4% of mammals on earth (18% of our land is covered by National Park and reserved areas.)
- ◄ 11 of the world's 15 families of butterflies (more than 500 species)
- ◄ 600 indigenous plant families.
- ◄ 319 species of exotic orchids.
- ◄ Country of world's 8 cultural Heritage Sites and 2 natural Heritages Sites. Kathmandu Valley's 7 Heritage Sites have the Guinness book of world record in such a close proximity (cluster of 7 world heritage sites in smaller area.)



Map of Nepal





Nepal is the only country in the world, which contains:

- ◀ The highest mountain peak in the world (Everest 8848 m) according to Guinness)
- ◀ The deepest river gorge in the world (Kali Gandaki river) according to Guinness)
- ◀ The birth place of Buddha (Lumbini)
- ◀ The living Goddess (Kumari) who is worshiped and taken in a chariot procession annually.
- ◀ The non-rectangular national flag.
- ◀ The best place in the world to study Tibetan Buddhism (according to a guidebook)
- ◀ The largest selection of books on the Himalayas and mountain climbing (according to a guidebook)
- ◀ Kathmandu, the Capital city "with as many idols as men and as many temples as houses" according to a British travellers few hundred years ago.
- ◀ Elephant Polo Match held every year.
- ◀ A hotel in Everest National Park at an altitude of 3870m, claimed to be the highest hotel in the word.

Nepal:

- ◀ Is also "one of the world's great trekking paradise" and "one of the nice countries in the world for trekking" according to Sir Edmund Hillary.
- ◀ Contains one of the ten best rivers in the world for rafting according to a magazine.
- ◀ Contains a hotel which has been called one of the best economic places to stay outside Europe and North America.
- ◀ Has such a concentration of art. culture could not be found anywhere else in the world according to a guide-book.
- ◀ Is one of the few countries of the world where one can see one horn Rhinos.
- ◀ Contains Kathmandu which to one of the best place, is east of Bangkok and called it "Budget Eating Capital of Asia".
- ◀ Nepal has more than 70 ethic groups like Gurung, Rai, Limbu, Magars, Tharu, Dhimal etc.



▶▶ Nepal at a Glance

Area:	147,181 sq. km
Continent:	Asia
Length:	885 km
Wide:	193 km
Geography:	Situated between China in the north and India in the south.
Capital:	Kathmandu
Population:	22 Millions
People:	Nepal has more than 61 ethnic groups and 70 spoken languages.
Language:	Nepali is the national language. However, travel trade people understand and speak English as well.
Currency:	Nepalese Rupee
Religion:	
	Hindu: 80.62%
	Buddhist: 10.74%
	Islam: 4.20%
	Kirat: 3.60%
	Christian: 0.45%
	Sikha: 0.03%
	Jain: 0.02%
	Other: 0.37%

▶ Entry Procedures

One can get a visa at the Royal Nepalese Embassy or Consulate or at the airport upon arrival. Children under 10 years need not pay any visa fees. Two-passport size photos mandatory.

▶ Visa Formalities

Foreigner who intends to visit Nepal must hold valid passport or any travel document equivalent to passport issued by the Government for visiting a foreign country prior to apply for visa.

◀ Free visa for all tourists who visit Nepal only for 3 days. Free visa for tourists of SAARC countries and People's Republic of China.



▶ No foreigner is entitled to enter into and stay in the kingdom of Nepal without valid visa. Tourist entry visa can be obtained for the following duration from Royal Nepalese Embassy or Consulate.

▶ **Visa Fee**

Single entry: - US\$ 30 for 60 days

Multiple entries: - US\$ 50+US\$ 30

(Multiple entries will be valid for a visa year.

Business visa: - US\$ 100 for one year

▶ **Visa Extension**

Fee will be extended subsequently for 30 days upon payment of US\$ 30 for a maximum period of 150 days in a visa year (Jan-Dec) from the Department of Immigration in Kathmandu and Pokhara Immigration Office on request.

▶ **By land**

All visitors entering Nepal by land must use no other entry points other than

- 1) Kakarbhitta
- 2) Birgunj
- 3) Belhiya, Bhairahawa
- 4) Nepalgunj
- 5) Dhangadi, and
- 6) Mahendra Nagar in the Nepal-India border and
- 7) Kodari in the Nepal-China border. The overland tourists entering the Kingdom with their vehicle must possess an international cornet. The Indian vehicles can also get entry clearance by paying a certain amount at customs office in the entry point.

▶ **Foreign Exchange**

Foreign currencies must be exchanged only through the banks or authorised foreign exchange dealers. The receipts from such transactions are to be obtained and retained. Visitors can also exchange money at the foreign exchange counter at the airport upon arrival . Master Card and Visa Card are also accepted in tourist areas.

► Custom Formalities

It includes information on prohibited articles, published for import and export of the tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, perfumes and body cologne. All the baggage must be identified and have to pass through custom inspection at the port of entry and departure. Any item purchase at the duty free shop at the airport for personal use may be taken without paying or giving any customs. One needs to declare any dutiable item when passing through the Red Channel at the airport where as one can move freely through the Green Channel if no articles are there on which duty is applied.

It is illegal to export objects or items which are over hundred years old such as paintings, manuscripts or secret images that are valued with the cultural and religious aspects. One should not buy any such items which are important from the Nepalese cultural heritage point of view. Carrying narcotics, arms and ammunition are strictly prohibited. Visitors can export souvenirs to their respective countries. The export of antiques requires special certificate from the Department of Archaeology, National Archive Building, Ram Shah Path, Kathmandu (Tel: 4215358).

► Airport Tax

The TIM provides information on departure taxes as follows:

- ◄ Name or Type of Tax and Amount
- ◄ To Whom It Applies
- ◄ Conditions of Application
- ◄ Place of Payment
- ◄ Exemptions from the Tax

It is most helpful to advise the clients if they are expected to pay departure taxes so that they can reserve some local currency for payment. Travellers departing from the TIA are required to pay an airport tax of Rs 770 per person for departure to SAARC (south Asian) countries and Rs.1130 for departure to other international destinations. Domestic Airport tax is Rs. 169.50 for all national including Nepalese.

► **Royalty Fees for Mountaineering Expeditions in Nepal**

1) For the Mount Everest

◄ The royalty for the mountaineering expedition team not exceeding 7 in number from the route other than the general route (southeast route) shall be fifty thousand U.S. Dollar.

◄ The royalty for the mountaineering expedition from general route (southeast route) for the mountaineering expedition team shall be as follows:

2) Member of Expedition team

One Member	25000
Two Members	40000
Three Members	48000
Four Members	56000
Five Members	60000
Six Members	66000
Seven Members	70000

3) Other not more than 5 members may be added in the mountaineering with the payment of USD 10,000.00 each.

► **Entry fee for National Parks and Wildlife Conservation**

<u>Name of the protected Areas</u>	<u>Entry fee (NRS)</u>
Manaslu, Annapurna, Kanchanjunga Conservation area Lang tang, Sagarmatha, Rara, Shey- Phoksundo, Makalu,	2000
Khaptad National Park	1000
Koshi Tappu, Parsa, Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve, Chitwan National Park, Royal Bardia National Park and Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve.	500
Shivapuri National Park	250

▶ **Entrance Fees in Kathmandu for foreign Visitors**

◄ **The National Museum**

It is located at Chhauni near Swayambhunath.

Foreigners: - Rs.50

SAARC Nationals: Rs.10

An Extra: Rs. 50 for Cameras and

Rs. 100 for Video Camera.

Opens Daily: 9:00 A.M to 4:30 P.M

Closed: Sundays, Mondays and Holidays

Contact: 4271478

◄ **The Tribhuvan and Mahendra Museum**

It is located at Hanuman Dhoka palace.

Entrance fee: - Rs 250

Opens Daily: - 9:15A.M to 4 P.M

Closed: - Sundays, Mondays and Holidays

Contact: 4258034

◄ **The museum of National History**

It is located behind the Swayambhunath

Entrance Fee: - Rs 20 and

An Additional Rs. 20 for Camera

Opens Daily: - 10 A.M to 5 P.M

Closed: - Saturdays and Holidays

Contact: 4271899

◄ **Patan Durbar Square**

Entrance Fee: - Rs 200 per person

SAARC Nationals: - Rs.25

◄ **Patan museum**

It is inside Patan Durbar square.

Entrance Fee: - Rs 250

SAARC Nationals: - Rs.50

Nepalese: -Rs.10

Opens Daily: - 10:30 A.M to 5 P.M

Closed: - Tuesday and Holidays

Contact: 5521492

◄ **Central Zoo**

Entrance Fee: - Rs 100 (Rs.50 for children)

Elephant Ride: -Rs 100

Opens Daily: - 10A.M to5 P.M

Closed: - Monday

Contact: 5528324

◄ **Bhaktapur Core Area**

Entrance fee: - Rs 750 per person (\$10)

SAARC Nationals: - Rs.50

The ticket can be Valid as long as your visa is Valid
For any further information contact BTDC (6614822).

Note: You need only pay the entrance fee once. For the longer stay Bhaktapur visitor pass is available within a week of purchasing a entry ticket. One should submit a 2 passport size photo and a photocopy of your Visa and passport details.

◄ **Kathmandu Durbar Square**

Entrance Fee: - Rs 200 per person

SAARC Nationals: - Rs.25

◄ **Swayambhunath Stupa**

Entrance fee: - Rs 75 per person

SAARC Nationals: - Rs.30

◄ **The National Birendra Art Gallery**

Entrance fee: - Rs 75

SAARC Nationals: - Rs.25

Opens Daily: - 9 A.M to5 P.M

Closed: - Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays

Contact: 4411729

◄ **Int'l Mountain Museum**

Entrance Fee: - Rs 300 per person

SAARC Nationals: - Rs.200 per person

Nepalese: -Rs.50 per person

Nepalese Student: - Rs.10 per person



►► **Protected Areas in Nepal**

There are a total of 9 national parks, 3 wildlife Reserves, 3 conservation Areas, 1 Hunting Reserve including 9 Buffer zones around national parks, covering a total of 28,585.67 km (19.42 %) of the country's total land. Nepal's rich bio-diversity renders it ideal as an eco-tourism destination.

► **Annapurna Conservation Area**

Annapurna Conservation Area project covers an area of 7629 sq.km. This includes middle hills, sub alpine, alpine and trans- Himalayan dry plateau eco systems. Starting with an altitude of 790m., the area reaches as high as 8,091 meters of Annapurna. This area is one of the best trekking trails in the world.

Around 100 different kinds of mammals and around 478 species of birds and also home to 39 species of reptiles and 22 species of amphibians.

► **Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve**

The park area is 1,325 sq.km. The area begins at 3000 meters reaches as high as 7000 meters. Nepal's only desig-



nated hunting reserve; one of the prime attractions for hunters is the blue sheep, which is abundant in the area. The main activities done here is Trophy Hunting and game viewing. This is also an area of interest to the naturalist, being the largest preserved area of Nepal's Central Middle hills.

► **Kanchanjunga Conservation Area**

Kanchanjunga conservation area covers an area of 2,035 sq.km. Situated in north eastern Nepal, has alpine grasslands, low river valleys with temperate and sub tropical forests. Almost 30 varieties of Rhododendron species and 69 Varieties of orchids are found here.

► **Khaptad National Park**

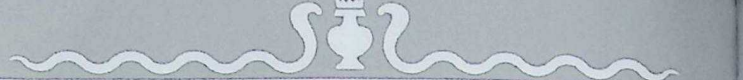
Khaptad national park area is 225 sq. km. This is the only park representative of the flora and fauna of Nepal's western middle hills. This park with rolling plateau of mixed forest and grasslands supporting leopards, black bears and musk deer. The park boasts of 224 species of medicinal herbs and offers excellent bird watching opportunities, with 270 species of birds, the common ones being different varieties of Impeyan Pheasant, Partridges, flycatchers, bulbuls, Cuckoos and eagles. Animals in the park are barking deer, wild boar, ghoral, Himalayan black bear, Yellow-Throated marten, rhesus monkey and languor monkey.

► **Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve**

Koshi Tappu reserve area covers 176 sq. km. It was established in 1976. It is place for birdwatcher's paradise in Nepal. The reserve has recorded around 439 species of bird variety, some of which fly all the way from Siberia during winter. The grasslands support an important population of the Asiatic wild Buffalo. A wide variety of Ducks, herons, storks, egrets, ibis are seen on the riverbanks.

► **Langtang National Park**

Lang tang national park covers an area of 1710 sq.km. High altitude jungles with diverse vegetation and wildlife, scenic lakes, glaciers and Himalayan peaks combine to make



Langtang an attractive destination for visitors. Alpine pastures, sub-alpine scrub and dense forests of pines, rhododendrons, maples and oaks support a large variety of mammal and bird species. In the lowest forests are leopards, Himalayan black bear, and wild boars. In the higher regions are musk deer and Himalayan Thar. Many Varieties of pheasants and partridges, including Nepal's national birds, the Daphne, can be seen in the alpine meadows.

► **Makalu-Barun National Park**

The park area covers 2330 sq.km. Bordered by Sagarmatha national park, the Arun River and Tibetan border, it includes the rich forested valleys of the Barun and 7 other rivers. It is one of the new national parks and conservation is in the planning stages. Park boasts of 47 species of orchids, 67 species of medicinal herbs, 25 of Nepal's 30 varieties of rhododendron, 19 bamboo species, 15 oak species, 48 species of birds.

► **Manaslu Conservation Area**

Area starts at 600 m. and is crowned by the eight highest peaks in the world Mt.Manaslu at 8,163 m. This region is home to 29 species of mammals, over 20 species of bird and three species of reptiles and over 200 species of plants. This area covers an area of 1,663sq.km.

► **Parsa Wildlife Reserve**

Parsa wildlife reserve area covers 499 sq. km. There are 527 species of birds found in the reserve. Birds and animals apart the reserve also habitants snake like king cobra common cobra, krait, rat snake and python. The reserve provides good habitat for animals like wild elephant, tiger, leopard, sloth bear, blue bull and wild dog. The main activities are jungle safari on elephant-back, jungle walk and jeep drives.

► **Rara National Park**

The heart of park is the country's biggest lake, Lake Rara, from where the park gets its name. Park covers an area of 106 sq.km. The park is situated in the far northwest-

ern part of the country. In the temperate conifer forests surrounding lovely Rara Lake are Himalayan black bears, yellow-throated martens, musk deer, and the ghoral and scrow. Here, ornithologist S. Dillon Ripley rediscovered the spiny babbler after 106 years.

► **Bardia National Park**

It lies 585 km away from Kathmandu and is situated south-west of Nepal. The park covers area is 968 sq.km. The park is home to the endangered royal Bengal tiger and Nepal's famous one horned rhinoceros. This is the largest and most undisturbed protected area in the Terai. The park hosts 30 different mammals, more than 250 species of birds and several varieties of reptiles and water animals.

► **Chitwan National Park**

It lies 120 km. south-west of Kathmandu with an area of 932 square Kilometers. It was later declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1984. Sub Tropical deciduous Riverine forests, wooded hills and grasslands contain one-fourth of the world's endangered great one-horned rhinos as well as the Royal Bengal tiger, leopards, monkeys, and the splendid gaur bison. There are around 600 plant species, 50 mammals, 526 birds and 49 amphibians reptiles found in the park.

► **Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve**

This National Park is situated in the extreme south-west of Nepal and the park area is 155sq.km. Lying in the Terai region, its Sal forests interspersed with grass-lands make this



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a prime deer habitat. The pristine sub- tropical jungle makes Suklaphanta Nepal's 2nd largest wildlife reserve in Terai. It is considered the best park for wild elephants, and the lake of Rani tal hosts many local and migratory waterfowl. There are almost 2000 swamp deer, around 50 wild elephants and 30 tigers.

► **Sagarmatha National Park**

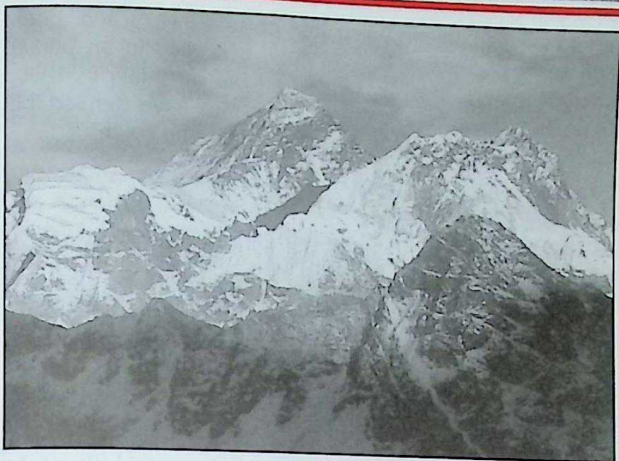
It is located north east of Kathmandu and covers an area of 1148 sq.km. The park was added to the list of world Heritage site in 1979. The prime attraction in this park is Mt. Everest, the highest peak of the world. The land of Sherpa people and some of the most spectacular scenery on earth. It supports the Himalayan's largest population of the goat-like Himalayan Thar, as well as related species, the ghoral and the scrow. In the mountain forests Himalayan red Panda, wolves and musk deer are found. The vegetation at lower elevation is dominated by pine and hemlock forests, while above 3500 m the forest is dominated with silver fir, birch, and rhododendron and juniper trees.

► **Shey-Phoksundo National Park**

It is situated in the trans- Himalayan region of north-west Nepal. It is Nepal's largest National Park. It covers an area of 3555 sq.km which includes Lake Phoksundo at its southern end. The park harbours some of the country's rarest animals, including the elusive snow leopard, the blue sheep and the Thar. The park contains 286 flora species of botanical importance.

► **Shivapuri National Park**

It is one of the popular trekking, hiking and recreation area. It offers the nearest retreat from Kathmandu. The park was declared as a national park in 2002 for the protection of its unique natural adornments. The park boasts of 177 species of birds, 102 species of butterflies, 19 species of Mammals including bear, leopard, deer, wild boar, wild cat and languor monkey and 129 species of Mushrooms.



▶▶ 8 WORLD'S HIGHEST PEAKS IN NEPAL

Draped along the greatest height of the Himalaya, the kingdom of Nepal is land of eternal fascination, a place where one visit is rarely enough. It's a land of ancient history, colourful cultures and people, superb scenery and some of the best walking on earth. Nepal is one of the richest countries in the worlds in terms of bio-diversity due to its unique geographical position and latitudinal variation. There are 1310 peaks above 6000. Likewise, out of 14, 800 m peaks 8 of them, including the highest peak in the world lie in Nepal.

▶ 1. Mt. Everest

The Everest region is located in the northeast of Nepal. The most visited part of this region is Solukhumbu district, home of legendary Sherpa and the highest peak of the world, the MT. Everest at a height of 8848 meters. It was first neither climbed on May 29, 1953 by a New Zealander sir Edmund Hillary and tensing nor gay of Nepal. Mt. Everest is also known by Nepali name Sagarmatha (mother of universe). Everest had been attempted many times before the



important expeditions being that of 1922, 1923 and 1924. The body of George h. I. Mallory, who died in an earlier attempt (1924), was discovered on the mountain in 1999. More than 600 climbers from 20 countries have climbed the summit by various routes from both north and south.

► 2. Kanchanjunga

Kanchanjunga 8,586 is the third highest mountain in the world. From 1838 until 1849 it was believed to be the highest. It is an enormous mountain mass, and many satellite Peaks rise from its narrow icy ridges. It is located on the border of Nepal and Sikkim, just 465 miles northwest of Darjeeling. It is most easterly of the great 8,000m. Peaks of the Himalayan.

Though not successfully climbed until 1955. It was first attempted in 1905, but four members of those international parties were killed in an avalanche. As inspiring as Kanchanjunga beauty is that at least the first three parties to ascend the mountain never attempted the final few feet to the Summit out of voluntary respect for the sikkimese, who consider the summit sacred. The successful British expedition of 1955 set the short of the actual summit, in honour of the local religion.

► 3. Lhotse

Lhotse with the height of 8,516m is the 4th highest mountain in the world. Its long east-west crest is located immediately south of Mt. Everest and the submits of the two mountains are connected by the south Col, a vertical ridge that never drops below 8000m. Lhotse is sometimes mistakenly identified as the south peak of the Everest massif. No serious attention was turned to climbing Lhotse until after Everest had finally been ascended. Lhotse was first climbed in 1956 by two Swiss, fritz Luchsinger and Ernest Reiss. In addition to the main summit, there are two subsidiary peaks, Lhotse shar, which is immediately east of the main summit, and Nuptse, a high peak on the mountain's west ridge.



► 4. Makalu

Makalu 8463 is the fifth highest mountain in the world. It is an isolated peak, located just 14 miles east of Mt. Everest. Its size alone is impressive. But its structure, that of a perfect pyramid with four sharp ridges, makes this mountain all the more spectacular. It has proved to be a challenging climb, as only five of its first sixteen attempts were successful. Previously, it had been admired and studied by several Everest parties. But like so many other giants in the Khumbu region, it was not attempted until the summit of Everest had been attained in 1954. a French group first climbed Makalu in the year 1955. Chomo lonzo 25,650ft. Is a subsidiary peak of Makalu, rising just north of the higher summit, separated by a narrow saddle.

► 5. Cho Oyu

Cho Oyu 8,201 is the sixth highest mountain in the world, located a short distance to the west from Everest and Lhotse the fourth highest in the Khumbu region of eastern Nepal along the Tibetan border. Its towering peak stands with Everest well above the surrounding mountains. It became a familiar landmark to climbers ascending Everest's north face. Just west of Cho Oyu is the Nangpa la. A 19000-foot glacier pass and the main trade route between the Khumbu Sherpa and Tibet. Cho Oyu's proximity to the Nangpa la has earned it the distinction among some climbers as being the easiest 8000m. Peak. It was the third such peak climbed, and the first climbed in autumn by two Austrian.

► 6. Dhaulagiri

Dhaulagiri 8,167 whose name means White Mountain is the seventh highest mountain in the world. It is an enormous Himalayan massif, located in north central Nepal. It is the highest mountain located entirely within Nepal. After its discovery by the western world in 1808, it replaced Ecuador's postulated highest mountain in the world. It maintained this



standing for nearly 30 years, until the discovery of Kanchanjunga, which was then falsely believed to be the world's highest mountain. Dhaulagiri crest stretches for thirty miles, lending structure to an otherwise tangled topography of twisting ridges, glaciers, and ice falls. Along the main crest, several pyramid shaped peaks rise. Four of these submits, Numbered from east to west, rise above 15000feet.in Swiss/ Austrian expedition who first reached the summit did so despite their airplane having crashed during the approach. This was the first Himalayan climb supported by an airplane, although the plane was subsequently abandoned on the mountain.

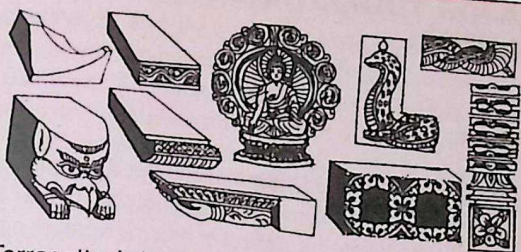
► 7. Manaslu

Manaslu 8163 is the high peak of the Gorkha massif, and is the eighth highest mountain in the world. It is located about forty miles east of Annapurna, the tenth highest mountain. The mountain's long ridges and valley glaciers offer feasible approaches from all directions, and it culminates in a peak that towers steeply above its surrounding landscape, and is a dominant feature when seen from afar. The name Manaslu is derived from the Sanskrit word Manasa and can be roughly translated as mountain of the spirit. An all female Japanese expedition successfully ascended to the summit, Thereby becoming the first women to climb an 8000m. Peak.

► 8. Annapurna

Annapurna (8091) is an enormous Himalayan mass if, the tenth highest mountain in the world. In 1950, it became the first 8000 meter mountain to be successfully climbed. It is located east of a great gorge cut through the Himalayan by the Kali Gandaki River. The mountain has glaciers on its western and northwestern slopes, which drain into this gorge.

Annapurna is a Sanskrit name that can be translated as goddess of the Harvests or more simply the provider or Annapurna many high peaks; five are labeled using some variation of the name Annapurna. Of these, the two highest (Annapurna I and II), Stand like bookends at the western and eastern ends of the mass if.



Terracotta brick of Nepal is one of the unique and indigenous building materials with the historic background of over 3000 years. The entire Kathmandu valley including most outstanding architectural monuments of cultural heritages as pagoda style temples, water spouts, Durbar Squares, row houses, Bahals and Bihars all are compulsorily constructed with the use of terracotta bricks. The terracotta with high ornamental values such as deep copper color, unique texture, size, and shape from pattern style has made the bricks admirable by many tourists and professionals and are being applied in many new constructions with increasing popularity.

Contact

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Kathmandu, Nepal

Phone: 977-1-4780986

977-1-4780969

977-1-4781865



► MAJOR TOURIST DESTINATION IN NEPAL

► Pokhara

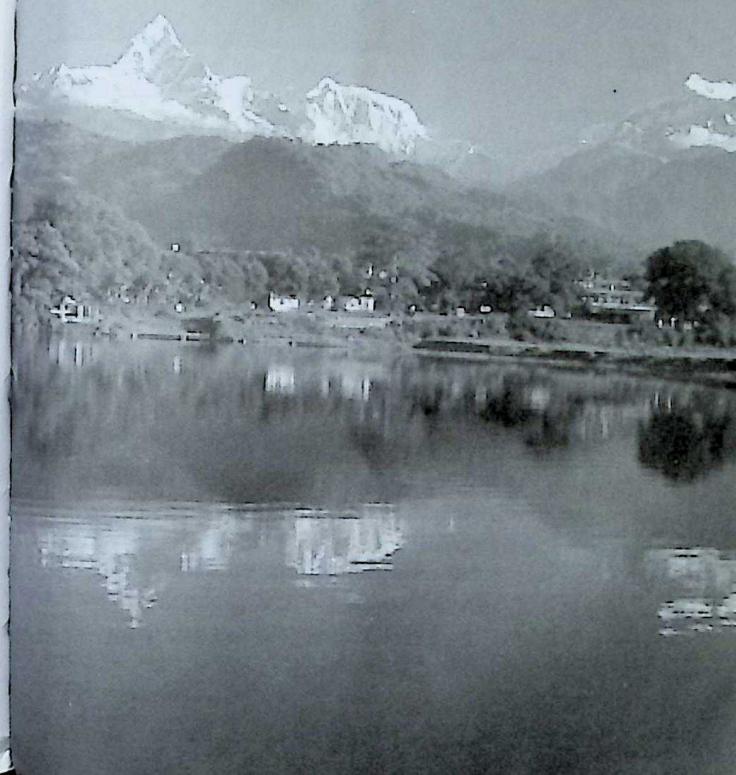
Nepal's biggest tourist destination after Kathmandu, the Pokhara Valley is an extraordinarily beautiful place. Most travellers come for trekking, rafting or other adventure sports, but leave with a deep sense of the city's scenic beauty and rich mosaic of ethnic cultures. Pokhara lies in the very heart of Central Nepal, and its population is representative of the ethnic patchwork of the region.

The valley surrounding Pokhara is home to thick forests, gushing rivers, clear lakes and the world famous views of the Himalaya. Situated 200 km west of Kathmandu, Pokhara is connected by air as well as by road from Kathmandu and Bhairawa, a border town near India. Pokhara offers magnificent views of Dhaulagiri, Manaslu, Machchhapuchhre, 5 peaks of Annapurna and others. Pokhara is also home to many ethnic groups: Thakalis, Gurung, Magars and Newars, each having their own social and cultural traditions. Hindu casts now dominate the original Gurung inhabitants, whose large slate-roofed villages still dot the countryside. Once, Pokhara belonged to the independent kingdom of kaski, and on the surrounding hilltops stand the ruins of ancient stone fortresses (kot), waterless and lonely, but virtually impregnable. The town is sprawling but largely undeveloped, with neighbourhoods scattered far apart from one another.

The centrepiece of Pokhara is the beautiful lake of Phewa Tal, the 2nd biggest lake in Nepal. Beside Phewa Tal, Begnas Lake and Rupa Lake lie 15 km to the east of



Pokhara. They are separated by a forested hillock named Panchabhaiya, and their relative seclusion makes them a perfect retreat. One should not miss the breathtaking rush of the Seti River. The best place to view the river's awesome power is on the Mahendra Pul. Another sight seeing place is Devi's fall, a waterfall located about 2 km southwest of Pokhara airport. There are many other sights in Pokhara, such as Mahendra Cave, Bat Cave, Pokhara's old Bazaar, Bindhyavasini Temple, Annapurna Museum and Pokhara Museum.





► Lumbini

Lumbini, the birth place of Lord Buddha in the west Nepal is a tourist asset of Nepal which is already a big tourist draw- and has a big potential. This place, sacrosanct to the Buddhist of the world, was identified by Dr. Aloes Anten Fuhrer, a German archaeologist, in 1895 A.D. the area may have been thriving region in the days when Buddha's father held away over the remote principality with its small capital situated at Kapilavastu.

The sacred remain that have survived are a broken Ashoka pillar, the stone image of Maya Devi, the mother of lord Buddha, the ruins of an old monastery, besides a few objects of archeological interest. International interest has been evinced in the preservation and development of this important religious site. The late U Thant issued an appeal for international help to maintain and improve the state as a great centre of pilgrimage for devout Buddhist from all parts of the world.



The Maya Devi temple is the main attraction for pilgrims and archaeologists alike. Here and find a bas relief of Maya Devi, the Buddha's mother giving birth to him, Standing west to the Maya Devi shrine the oldest monuments of Nepal, the Ashokan pillar. The pillar was erected by emperor Ashoka in 249 B.C to commemorate his pilgrimage to the sacred site to the south of the pillar. We find the sacred pond, Puskarni where Queen Maya Devi had taken a bath just before giving birth to the Buddha.

There is also a sacred stone marked with a "foot imprint" of emperor Ashoka, which had been placed her to make the exact birthplace. There are other places of interest too nearby. It is accessible by air from KTM to Bhairawa. From Kathmandu it takes about 8 hours by bus or Car.

► Chitwan

Nepal is a home to many magnificent national parks, which provides a national habitat to a great variety of wildlife. One of the best known among them is Royal Chitwan National park established in 1973. This park was recognised by UNESCO in 1984 as a world Heritage site in view of the scope and contributions of the park. This park is 140 km south west of Kathmandu. It is very popular tourist destination in natural life. The park covers an area of approximate 932 sq.km ideally located in Narayani River valley.

Chitwan which means the 'heart of the jungle' is among the last surviving example of the continuous bans of forests and grasslands which once extended from the Indus River in Pakistan to the Burmese border. The park that includes in its area a part of the shivalik hills, is covered with deciduous forests overlooking the floodplains of Narayani, Rapti and Reu rivers and offering a wilderness of rich ecosystem that



includes mammals, birds, reptiles and water animals of several kinds. There are around 600 plant species, 50 mammals, 526 birds and 49 amphibians reptiles found in the park. The highlights, of course, are the 500 Asian one- horned rhinoceros and some 100 nocturnal Royal Bengal tigers that live in the dense forests of the park. Sharing home with these are other animals like rhesus monkey, grey languor, deer, leopards, white stockinged gaur, wild dogs and wild cats.

The sub-tropical climate, with the temperature reaching highest during December through February, the average rain fall record here is about 2400mm. one can easily discover prehistoric one horned rhinos, lumbering elephants, gharial, crocodiles, birds such as colourful king Fishers green para-keets, blue tailed bee eaters and other inside the park. The typical jungle and safari is an ideal model to have a good glimpse of many of these fabulous creatures in their natural habitat. Including of culture tour, Tharu stick dance, Bird Park watching etc are also important activities in the best time to visit is autumn (September through December).



▶ Information about Entertainments and Other Services

▶ Library

- ◀ Janajyoti Library
Durbar square, 6611522
- ◀ Students' library
Durbar square, 6610833

▶ Club Bagmati

Just 500m. away to the south of Adarsha bus stand of Arniko highway, reclines of mountains. Tantalising waves in the blue waters of pool cools off your mind and enjoy the delicacies of cuisine at restaurant.

▶ Mediation and Yoga

- ◀ Barahisthan Yog centre
- ◀ Shubarneshor Yog centre
- ◀ Suryabinayak Yog centre
- ◀ Club Bagmati Yog centre

▶ Cinéma

- ◀ Nava Durga ChalChitra Mandir
Itachhen, Bhaktapur
- ◀ Baharai movies
Barahisthan, Bhaktapur

▶ F.M. Radio

- ◀ Bhaktapur F.M. radio service
Itachhen, Bhaktapur

▶ ATM Services

There are three ATM machines with 24 hours services at Durbar square operated by Nabil Bank, Investment Bank and Himalayan Bank.

▶ Credit Card Services

One can find it from some of the tourist shops, hotels, restaurants, handicrafts accept credit cards.



► Money Exchange

<i>Exchange rate</i>	<i>unit</i>	<i>Rupee</i>
Indian RS	100	160
US dollar \$	1	65.70
Euro	1	89.39
Pound sterling	1	131.05
Japanese yen	10	5.50
Chinese Yuan	1	8.53
Swiss	1	
Australian dollar	1	54.32
Canadian dollar	1	58.70

► Time (GMT)

Nepal is 5 hours and 45 minutes ahead of Greenwich Mean Time.

Time Difference with International cities

Rangoon	-45 min
Bangkok	-1hr.15min.
Tokyo	-3hr.15min.
Sydney	-3hr.15min.
New Delhi	+15 min.
Paris	+4hr.45min.
London	+5 hr.45 min.
Sanfrancisco	+13hr. 45 min.
Hawaii	+15 hr.45 min.
New York	+10hr.45 min.

► Business time

Government offices = 10am -5pm (4pm in winter)
Sun-Thu,
10pm-3pm Fri, closed Sat

Banks = 9am- 5pm Sun-Fri,
9am-12am, Sat

Embassies = 8am-5pm Mon- Fri

Airline offices = 9am- 5pm Sun- Fri
9am-1pm, Sat
(1pm-2pm Lunch Break)

Shops = 10am-5-8 pm

Restaurants = 8am-11pm



Hriday

► Cultural Show

Bhaktapur-a culture capital has a lots of activities and cultural dances that are being performed during festivals and ceremonies such as typical Newari dances, mask dances, stick dances, classical dances, charya dances, etc. which are demonstrated according to demand. For further information contact information centre, BTDC office.

► Information Centre

1. BTDC Office
Sakotha-11, Bhaktapur, 6614822
2. Tourist Service Centre
Durbar square -6612249
3. Nepal Tourism Board
Kathmandu, 4256909
4. Immigration Office
Kathmandu, 4222453

►► **Some Important Phone Numbers**

Nepal country code- 977
International access code from Nepal 00
Fire- 101
Directory enquiry- 197
24-hour tourism hotline 42255709

► **Medical**

Bhaktapur hospital, Bhaktapur 6610676
Bir hospital Kathmandu, 4221119, 4221988
Dr. Iwamura memorial hospital, Bhaktapur 6612695
Siddhi memorial hospital, Bhaktapur 6613515
Teaching hospital, Maharajgunj 44123303/4412404
Blood bank Kathmandu, 4225344
Nepal eye bank, Kathmandu, 4493684
Nepal eye hospital, Kathmandu, 4250691
Patan hospital, patan, 5522278
Mental hospital, patan, 5521333
Kanti child hospital, Maharajgunj, 4414798
Norvic, Thapathali, 4258554

► **Ambulance**

Bhaktapur hospital 6610076/6610570
Bhaktapur municipality, 6613200
Siddhi memorial hospital, 6610570
Bhaktapur Red Cross, 6610676
District dev. Committee, 6611093
Madhyapur Thimi municipality, 6631000
Paropakar ambulance service, Katmandu, 4260859
Red Cross ambulance, Katmandu, 4228094
Lalitpur Red Cross ambulance sewa, 5545666

► **Police**

District police office, Bhaktapur, 6614708
Emergency, 100, 110, 120
Tourist police, Kathmandu, 4211293
Police control, 100
District police Kathmandu, 4261945
District police patan, 5521207



▶▶ AIRLINES SERVICES

▶ Domestic airlines

Agni Air	4107812
Air Dynasty Heli. Service	4497418
Buddha Air	4491384
Gorkha Airlines	4481871
Karnali Air	4488553
Yeti Airlines	4465888
Manang Air	4496253
Nepal Airlines	4220757
Shree Airlines	4222948
Shangri-La Air	4427908
Sita Air	4468884
Simirik Air	4499727
Skyline Airways	4419490
Fishtail Air *	

▶ International air lines

Aeroflot Russian Airlines	4227399
Air Arabia	4233211
Air China	4440651
Air France	4445562
Air India	441671
Air Mauritius	4220759
Air Sahara	4260761
American Airlines	4268563
Austian Air	4223331
Biman Bangladesh	4434740
British Airways	4222266
Brunei Air	4438367



Cathay Pacific Airways	4248944
China Airlines	4440651
China Southern	4150069
Delta Airlines	4223233
Dragon Air Hong Kong	4223502
Druck Air	4239988
Emirate	4252050
Ethiopian Airlines	4216817
Etiyad Air	4233545
GMG Airlines	4228470
Gulf Air	4435322
Indian Airlines	4414596
Japan Airlines	4222838
Jet airways	4222121
KLM Royal Dutch Airlines	4418389
Korean Air	4252048
Kuwait Airways	4249887
Malaysian Airlines	4247215
Martin Air	4247215
Northwest Airlines	4418387
Pakistan Int Airlines	4439624
Philippines Airlines	4263336
Phuket Air	5524732
Qantas Airways	4220245
Qatar Airways	4257712
Nepal Airlines Corporation	4220757
Saudi Arabian Airlines	4249387
Sri Lankan Airlines	4227064
Thai Airways	4224387
United Airlines	4220245
Uzbekistan Airways	4223229

► Embassies & Diplomatic Missions

Australia	4371678
Bangladesh	4372843
British	4411590
China	4411740
Denmark	4413010
Finland	4417221
France	4412332
Germany	4416832
India	4415990
Japan	446680
Malaysia	5010004
North Korea	4270172
Russia	4412155
South Korea	4270172
Sri Lanka	4419289
Thailand	4371410
USA	4411179

► Consulates

Austrian consulate	4434891
Consulate of Belgium	4413732
Canadian consulate	4415193
Consulate of Greece	422050
Consulate of Hungary	5527370
Consulate of Maldives	4411818
Consulate of Mexico	4412971
Consulate of the Netherlands	5523444
Consulate of the Philippines	4478301
Consulate of Poland	4250004
Consulate of Spain	4470770
Consulate general of Sweden	4220939
Swiss consulate agency	5538499
Consulate of Turkey	4446400
Consulate of Norway	5545308
Consulate of New Zealand	4412436
Consulate of Brazil	5527223
Consulate of Chile	4243593
Consulate of Iceland	4431814
Consulate of Switzerland	5538488

» DO'S AND DON'T

- ◀ Your entrance ticket could be valid for the length of your visa, confirm at the ticket counter.
- ◀ Avoid possibilities of misusing your entrance ticket.
- ◀ Avoid entering Hindu temples, where not allowed.
- ◀ Support local entrepreneurs, purchase local gifts.
- ◀ You may ask any tourist shop, restaurant or hotel if you need to find a toilet.
- ◀ Do not encourage hawkers and beggars if you want to avoid irritation.
- ◀ Do not encourage children to beg.
- ◀ Do not encourage unauthorised guides. Have an authorised guide accompany you to travel beyond regular tourist routes for your personal safety.
- ◀ Hire only authorised guide.
- ◀ Using and possessing drugs is a serious legal offense, punishable by fine and imprisonment.
- ◀ Bhaktapur is a safe destination you can help us keep it that way by being careful with your valuables.
- ◀ Help city clean.
- ◀ For any assistance contact BTDC at Sakotha 6614822

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▶▶ INSTITUTIONAL MEMBER OF BTDC

▶ Hotels and Restaurants

Bhadgoan Guest House
Taumadhi, ph6610488, fax 6610481
bhadgaon@mos.com.np.

Bhaktapur Guest House
Chundevi, ph; 6610670, fax6612325
bghouse@mos.com.np

Dhanush Guest House
Nankhel, ph 6640537

Golden Gate Guest House
Durbar Square, 6610534, fax6611081
goldengate@mail.com.np

Green line Guest House
Sallaghari, 6618115, fax 6218460

Hotel Bhintuna
Indrayani, 6613364 fax 4420315
mab@wlink.com.np.

Hotel Sweet Home
Balakhu, 6617778fax6615261
hotelsweethome@enet.com.np

Kumari Guest House
Durbar Square, 6611323
kumari@craftcoll.wlink.com.np.

Nyatapola Inn Guest House
Taumadhi, 6611852

Pagoda Guest House
Taumadhi, 6613248 fax6612685
ghpagoda@wlink.com.np.

Pahan Chhen Guest House
Kwachhen, 6612887, fax 6610290
srp@mos.com.np.

Shiva Guest House
Durbar Square, 6613912 fax 6610740
bisket@wlink.com.np.

Sunny Café & Sunny Guest House
Taumadhi Square, 6616094 (Fax), 612004
sunnyres@hotmail.com

Dattatraya Guest House
Dattatraya Square, 6613998
dattatrayacafe@hotmail.com

Khwopa Guest House
Gahiti, 6614661
khwopa12@hotmail.com

The Niva Pvt. Ltd
Nagarkot, ph 6613504
nivalodge@mail.com.np

Hotel View Point
Nagarkot. ph 6680123, 6680126

► Restaurants

Café de Temple Town
Durbar Square, 6612432

Cafe Nyatapola
Taumadhi, 6610346



Hob-Nob Restaurant
Jagati, ph 2132220

Marco Polo Restaurant
Taumadhi, 6610955
Peaceful Newa Cafe & Beer Garden
Ichhu Tole, 6614900

Watsala Restaurant
Durbar Square, 6610957
saradbaidya@hotmail.com

Highway Restaurant
Nankhel, ph 6540313

Café Garden & Restaurant
Somala Galli, 6618725
Café_garden@hotmail.com

Arniko Village Resort pvt (Ltd)
Bansghari, Ph., 6540321

Bamboo Cottage & Resort
Mahakalasthan, ph 6540162

► **Handicraft**

Bhaktapur Wood Craving
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bwcarving@wlink.com.np.

Classic Silver Handicrafts
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abstd@wlink.com.np.

Gorkha Khukuri House & Pashmina
Bolachhen, ph 6612164



Historical Thanka Art School
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Nepal_mangal@hotmail.com

Khaiwa Thanka School
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Lama Thanka Center
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Gyan_l@yahoo.com

Lovely Cottage Emporium
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Lovely Handicrafts
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lovely@wlink.com.np

Lumbini Thanka Painting House
Ghatkha, Ph 6612889

Mountain Grt Gallery
Durbar Square, ph 4482493

Manjushree Thank Painting House
Inacho, ph 6617464, fax 6613227

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Thimi

Nirvana Wood Carving
Ghatkha, ph 6612801

Peace Thanka Center
Changu Narayan, ph 6613578

Prajapati Ceramics Udyog
Bolachhen, ph 6613061, fax 6613061



Refugee Camp Thanka
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sunilyakami@yahoo.com

R.S. Wood Craving
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info@rswoodcraft.com.np.

Traditional Thanka Painting School
Tulachhen, ph 6613613

Unity Thanka Production
Inacho, ph6617490

Unique Thanka Production Center
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puspalama@yahoo.com

Women Skill Development Program
Gatkha, ph 611894

Close to Nature Collection
Baharahisathan, ph 6612613

Welfare Crafts
Taumadhi, ph 9841257791

Dip Handicrafts
Taumadhi, ph 6612129

Nyatapola craft
Pottery square, ph 6614599

► Travels & Tours

Bhaktapur Travels & Tours Pvt. Ltd
Taumadhi square, ph.6615250
btravels@mail.com.np.
B2travels@gmail.com.

► **Money Exchange**

Bhaktapur Money Exchange Counter
Kwachhen, ph 6610499

► **Computer & Cyber**

Explore It
Sakotha, ph 6610444

Link Point Nepal pvt Ltd
Bansagopal, 6612856
linkpointnepal@hotmail.com

Main point Computer Institute
Taumadhi, ph 9841299793

► **Other**

Nabil bank
Kathmandu, ph 44227181 fax 4223132



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यो जोश जाँगर माटोको निम्ति हो

संचार जगतको अभिन्न मित्र

भक्तपुर एफ एम १०५.४

फोन नं. ६६१७१११, ६६१३९७२

फ्याक्स नं. ९७७-१-६६१०६०७

प्रसारण समय

(विहान ६ वजे देखि बेलुकी १० वजे सम्म)

समाचार मुलक कार्यक्रम

आजको सन्दर्भ

प्रसारण समय

विहान ७ वजे , मध्यान्ह १२ वजे,

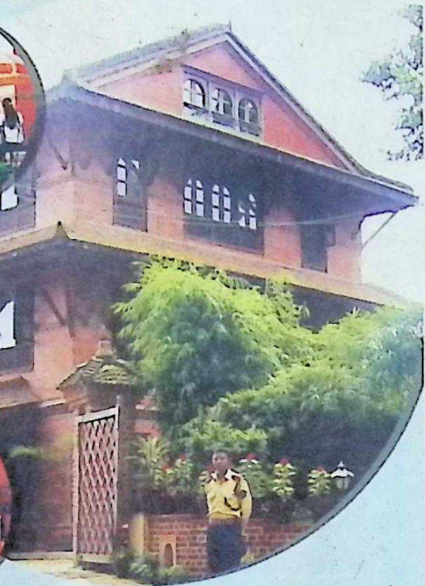
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